



ANTARCTIC

GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST
VOLUME 2

BIRKS
WHITE



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ANTARCTICA

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EAST
ANTARCTICA

ANTARCTIC



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5:59

Uhhh...

BZZZ!

BZZZ!

6:00

You ready, Gohel?

Do I look ready?

See you in twenty. Lots to prep.

And that investor, Symonds, has arrived.

Don't worry. I'll be there.

I'll be there.



Daddy!

BEEP!

BEEP!



Yeah, I hear them.

BEEP!

BEEP!



Gramps and Granna are here, Eve!

And they won't stop beeping until they see you!

BEEP! BEEP!

Coming!



Now, have you got everything you need?

You're there for a week, remember?



Yes. I've got everything.

It's not as if they live in the middle of nowhere...

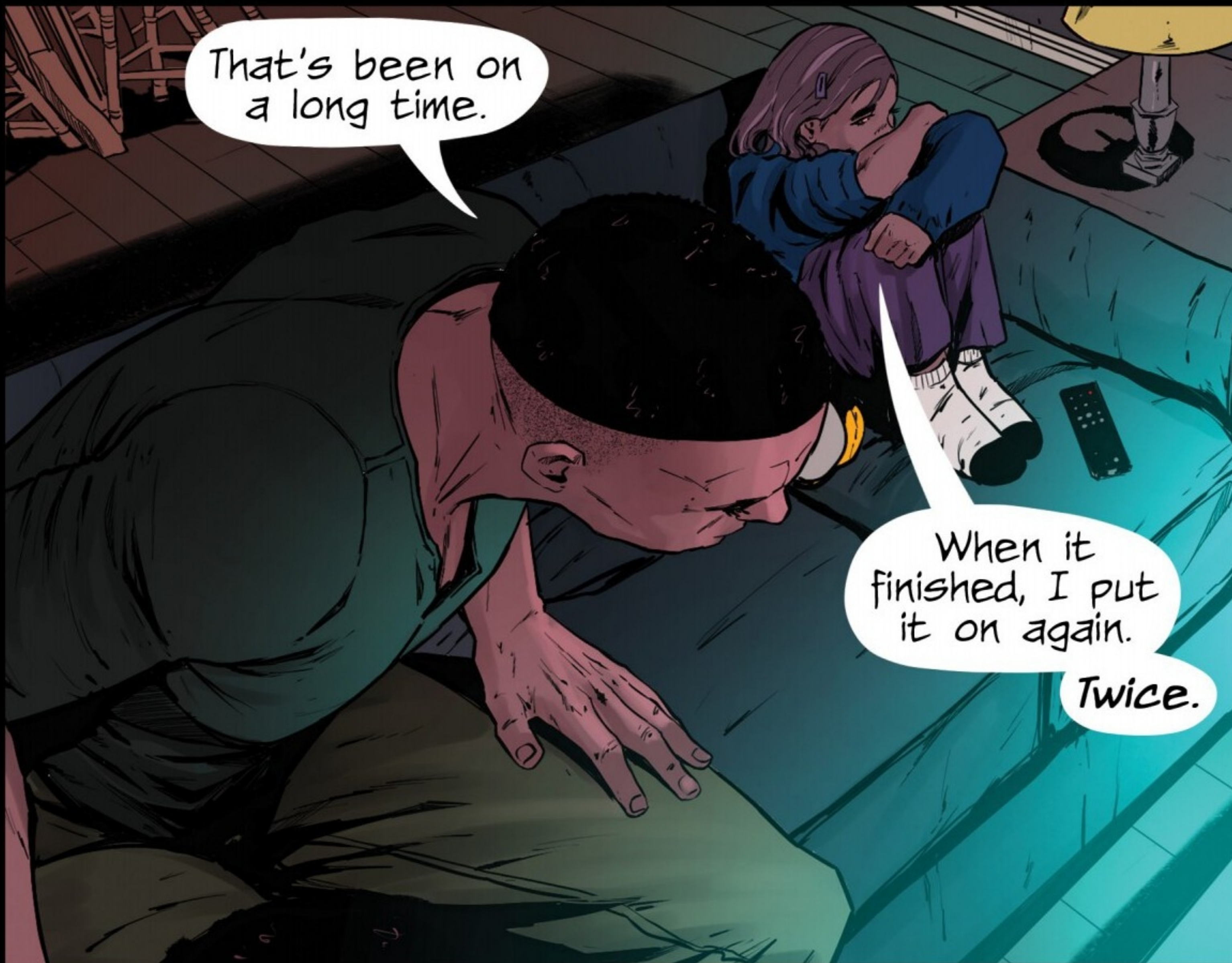


Be a good girl for them, eh?

I'm pretty sure they keep a scorecard.

I sure do.

I'll be amazing. You know me.





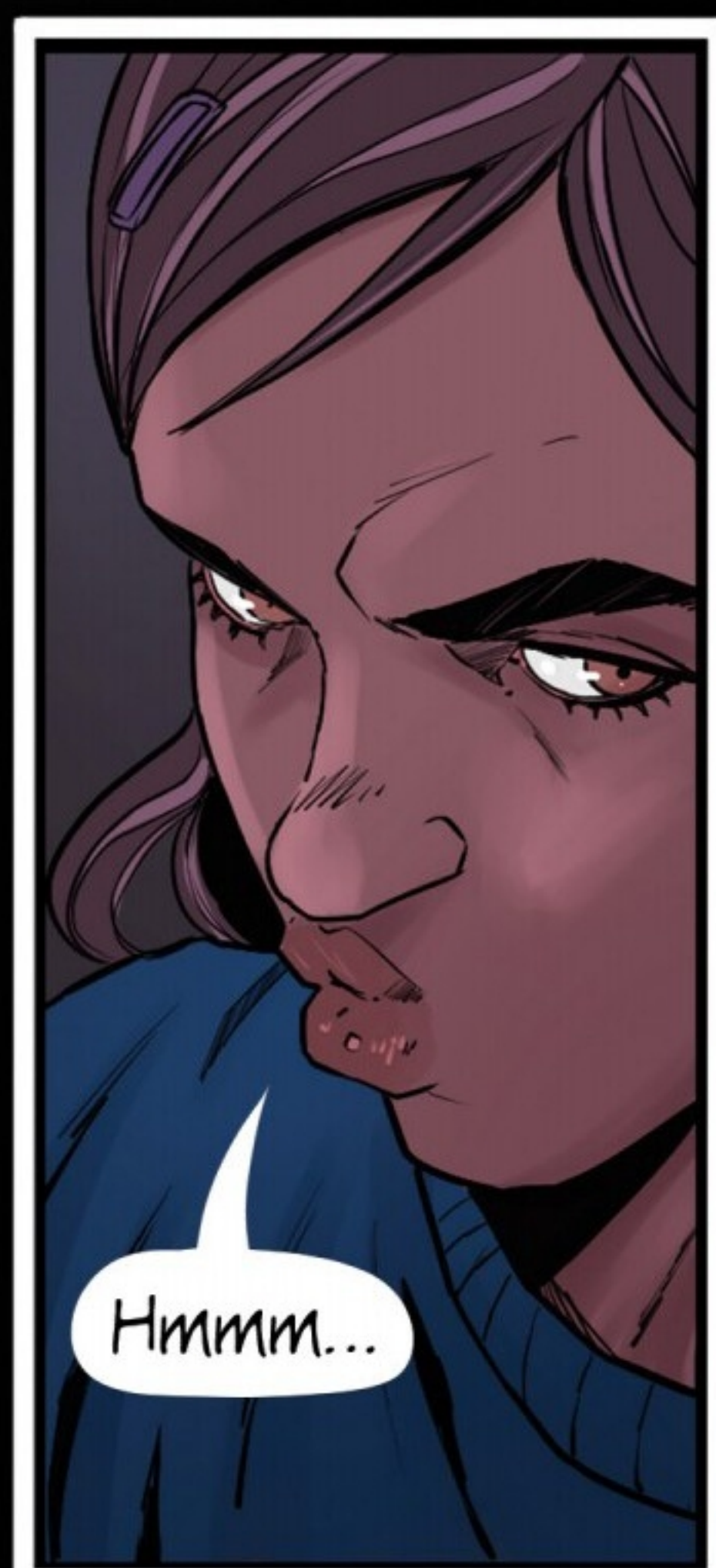
Daddy?

Hanny?

Why didn't Gramps and Granna want me to stay?



They *really* wanted you to stay, but I didn't want to spend Christmas without both my girls.



Hmmm...



But why did they choose Eve instead of me?



They didn't. Not really.

You say not really... but they *really* did..



I know that's how it seems. But they didn't.

I chose you, not because I like you more than Eve -- I love you both the same.

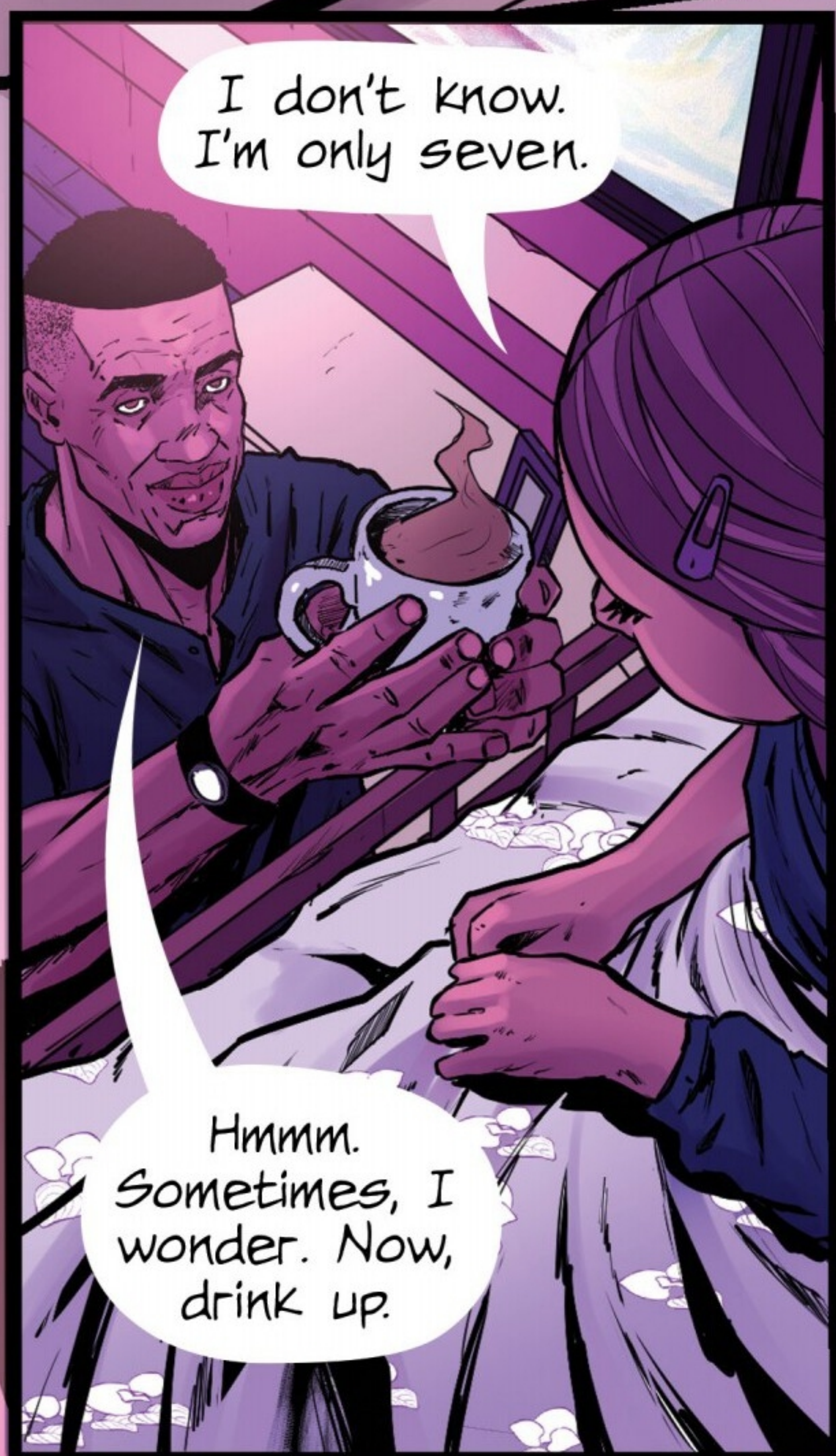
I chose you because you're younger.

And you're not listening to me, are you?

I haven't seen many presents for me.



Hannah Curtis, is that how I've brought you up? To want material things?



I don't know. I'm only seven.

Hmmm. Sometimes, I wonder. Now, drink up.



Slow down. Don't give yourself hiccups.



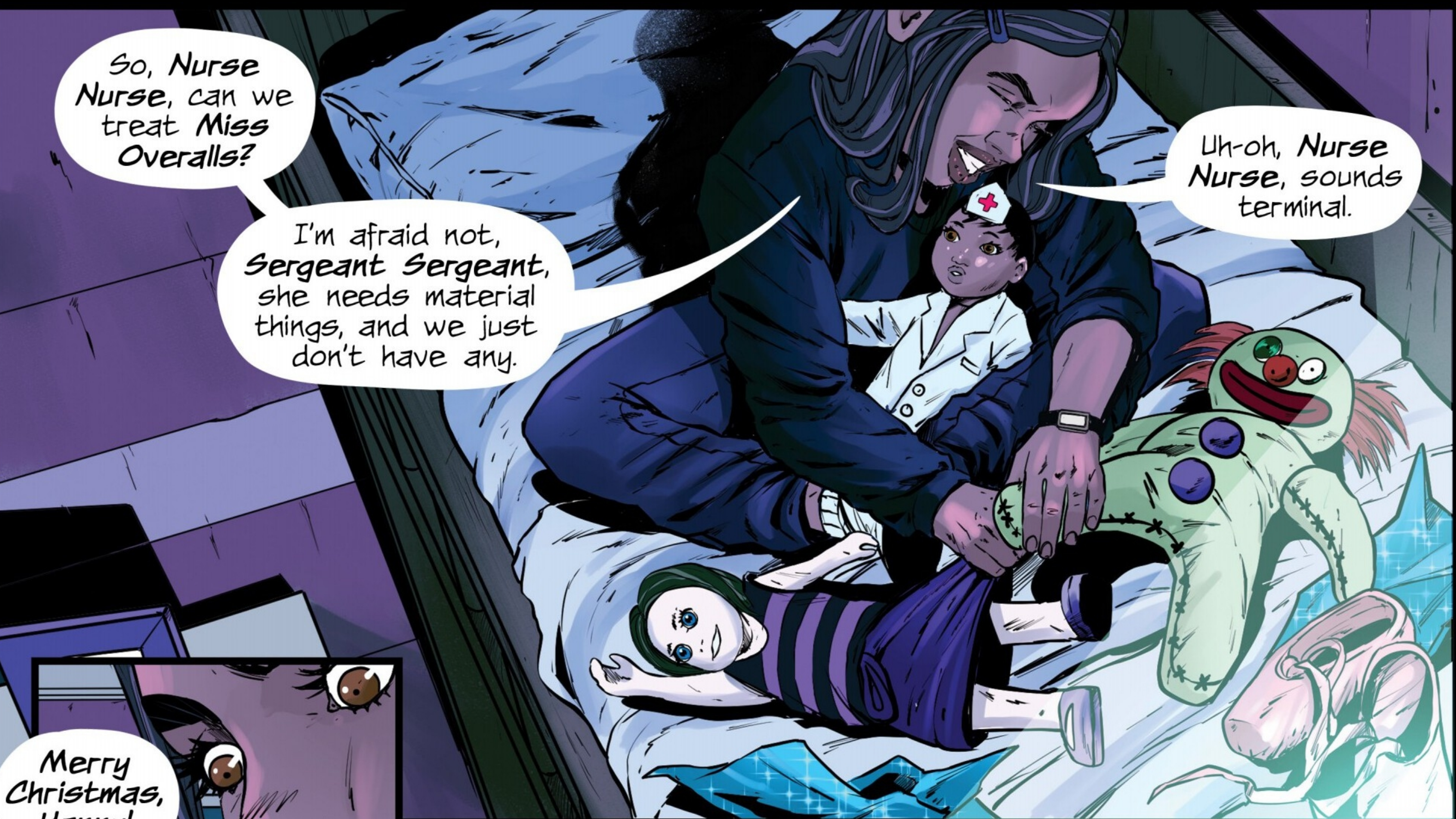
Shall we say
a prayer for
mummy?

Of course. A
silent one.



Now sleep
tight. See you
tomorrow.





So, Nurse Nurse, can we treat Miss Overalls?

I'm afraid not, Sergeant Sergeant, she needs material things, and we just don't have any.

Uh-oh, Nurse Nurse, sounds terminal.



Merry Christmas, Hanny!



Don't worry. I've already worked it out.



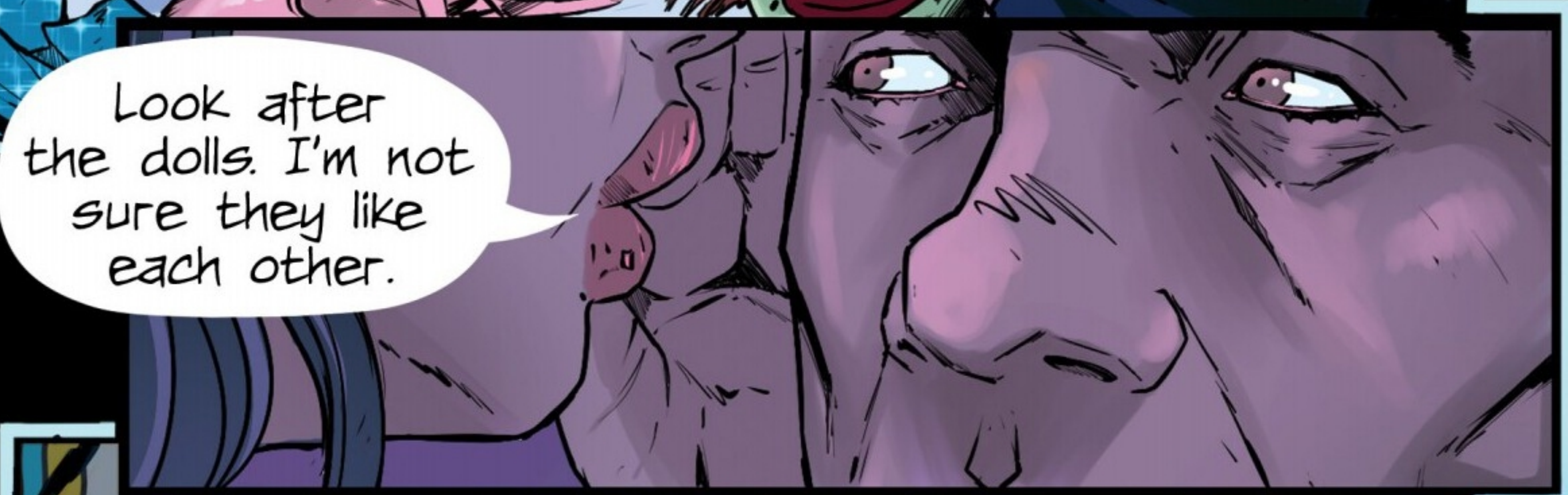
I might have known. How are you feeling?

Do you like your new watch? I've read all the instructions...

My door was locked when I woke up.



It must have been stuck. Your door doesn't have a lock on it.



Look after the dolls. I'm not sure they like each other.

That's what I thought. I need to wee.



Don't be long. I brought you a special Christmas breakfast.



Finished.

Can I open more presents, now?



After lunch, like always. Put a film on -- I've got to pop out.

Er, where's *The Muppets Christmas Carol*? I left it here last night.

It must be there, somewhere.



What about *The Candy Bunch*? You like that one.

All right. It's not the Muppets, though.

Presents when we get back?



Yes, please.

Daddy?

Yes, Hanny?

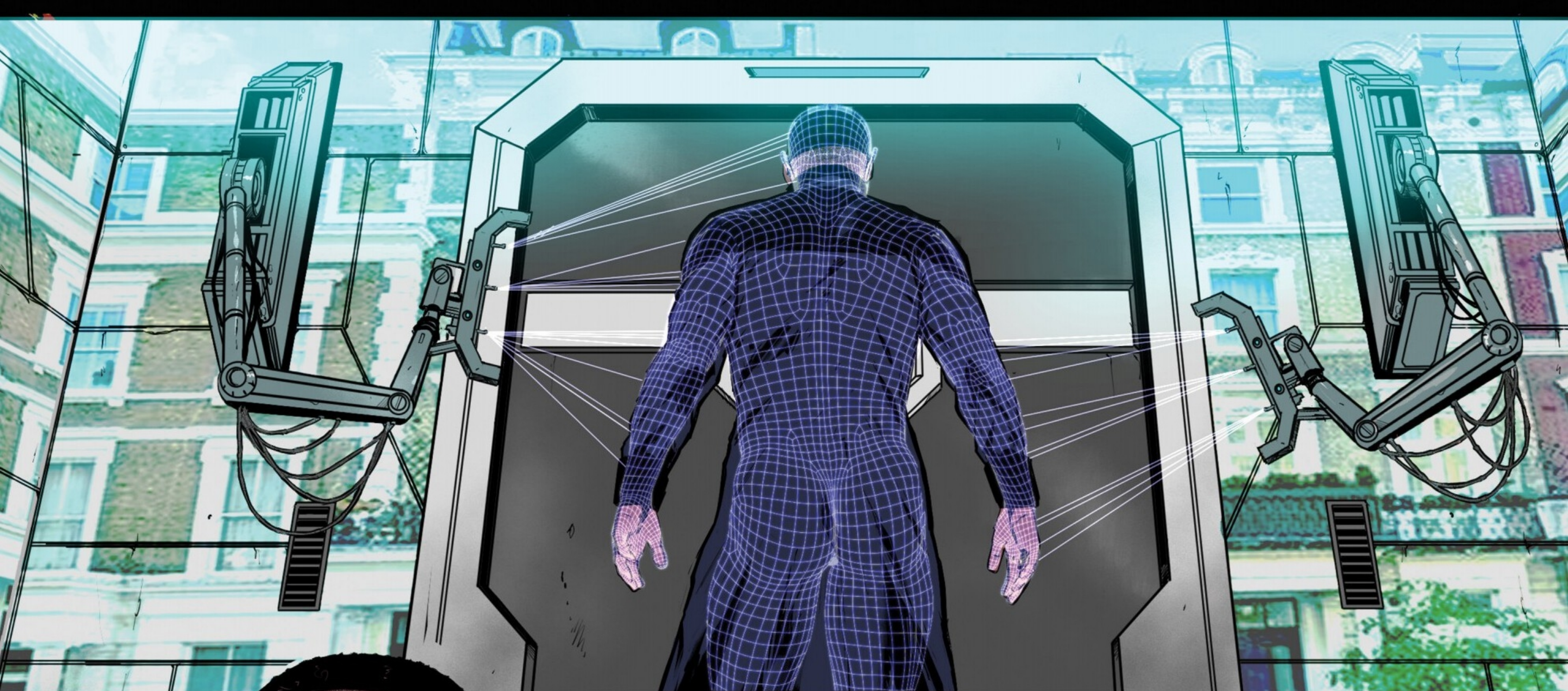


Love you.

Love you, too.







Any issues?

Nothing whatsoever.



That's good, right?

The world hasn't ended, so I'm chalking it up as a win.

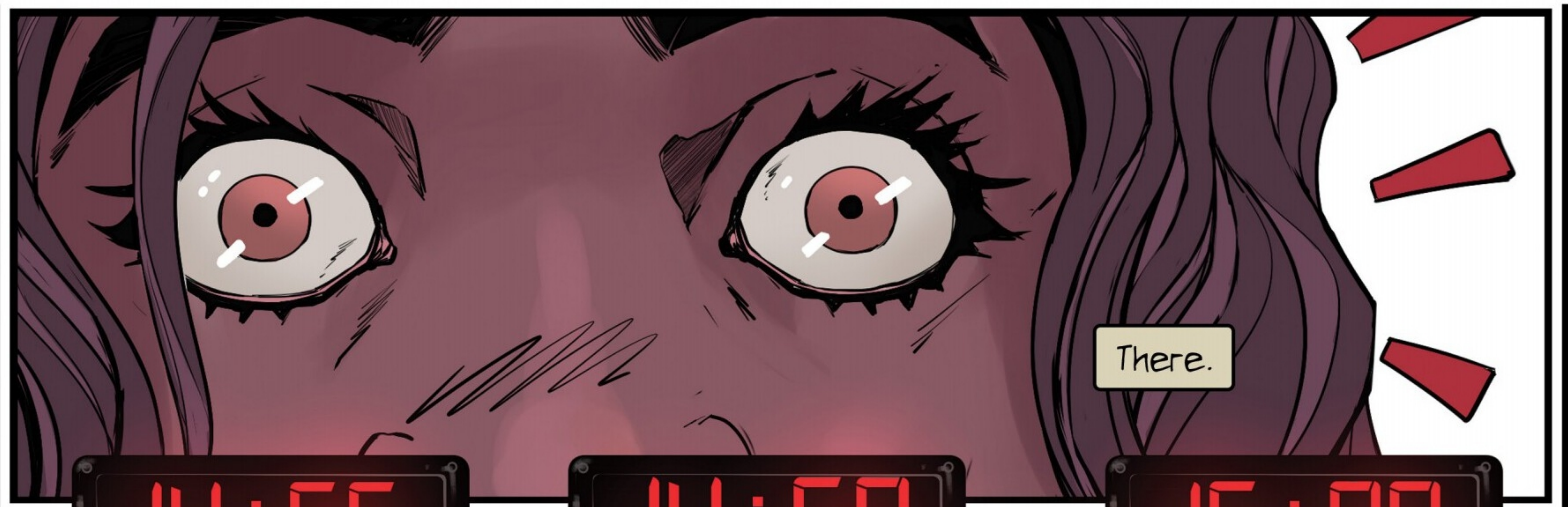
I can never tell whether you're joking or not.

I'm a scientist. We never joke.

Any news on...?

They're due any time, now.



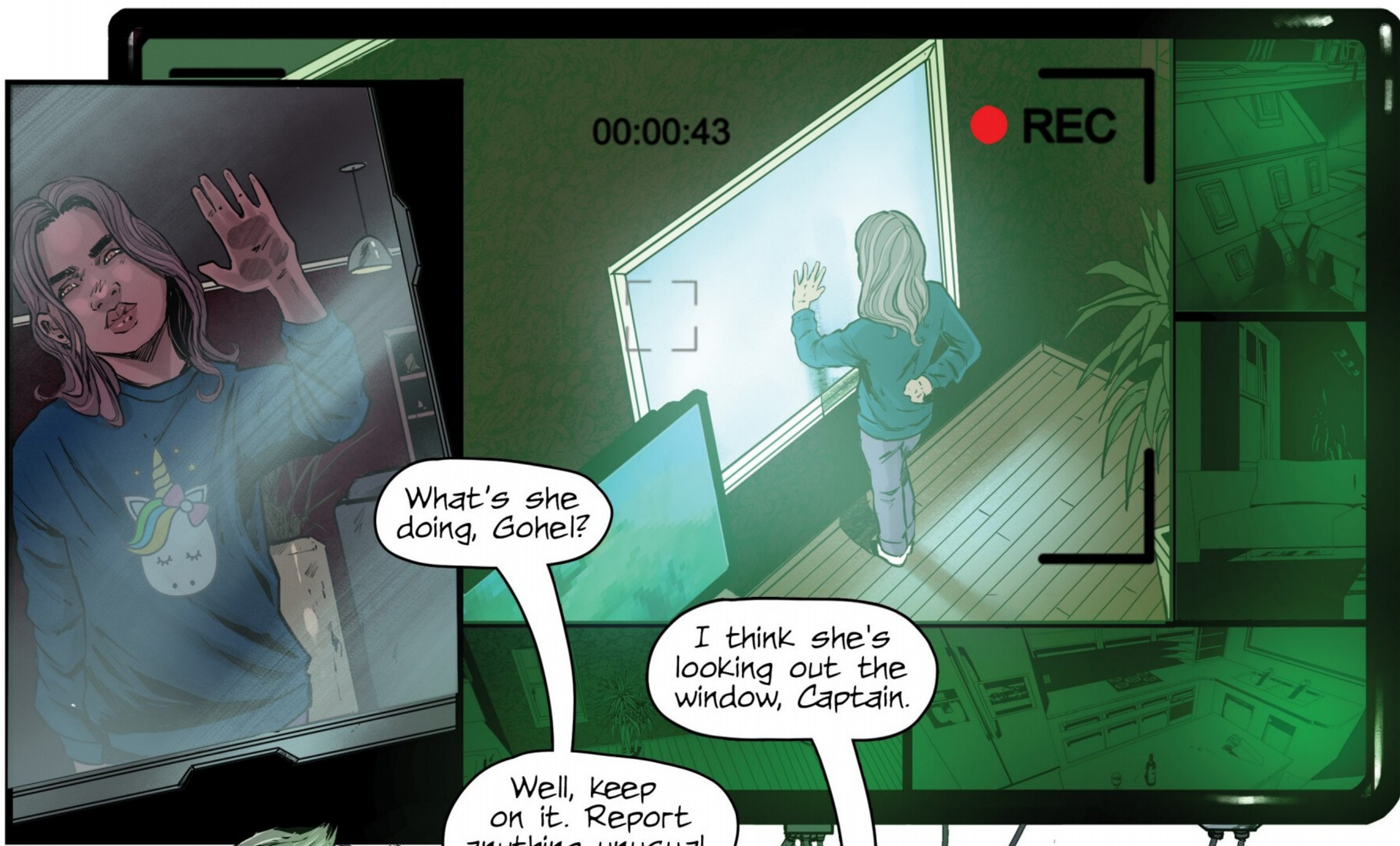


14:56

14:58

15:00





What's she doing, Gohel?

I think she's looking out the window, Captain.

Well, keep on it. Report anything unusual straight away.

Really? Only...



I was about to pop out for a coffee.



I don't pay you to have a sense of humour.

"You don't pay me at all."



This is just a big TV.



Hmm.



If this *is* my house, Mr. Penguin should be down here.



And...

...he's not here.



So where on Earth am I?



Doesn't it bother you?



But you're more than that, right?





We'll take it from here.

You shouldn't be here, Curtis.



I came to check on her.



She's perfectly fine. Not that it's any of your business.

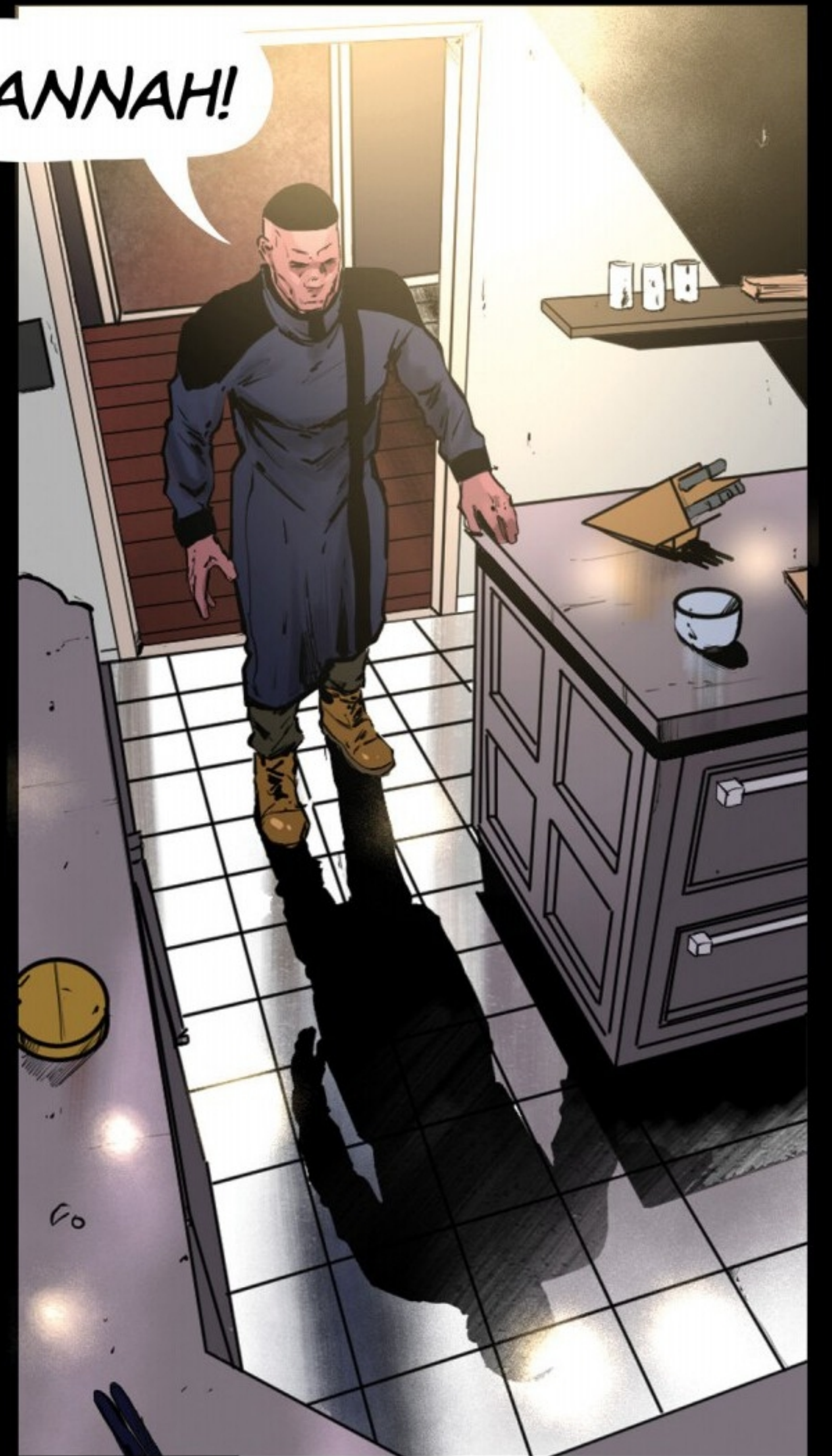
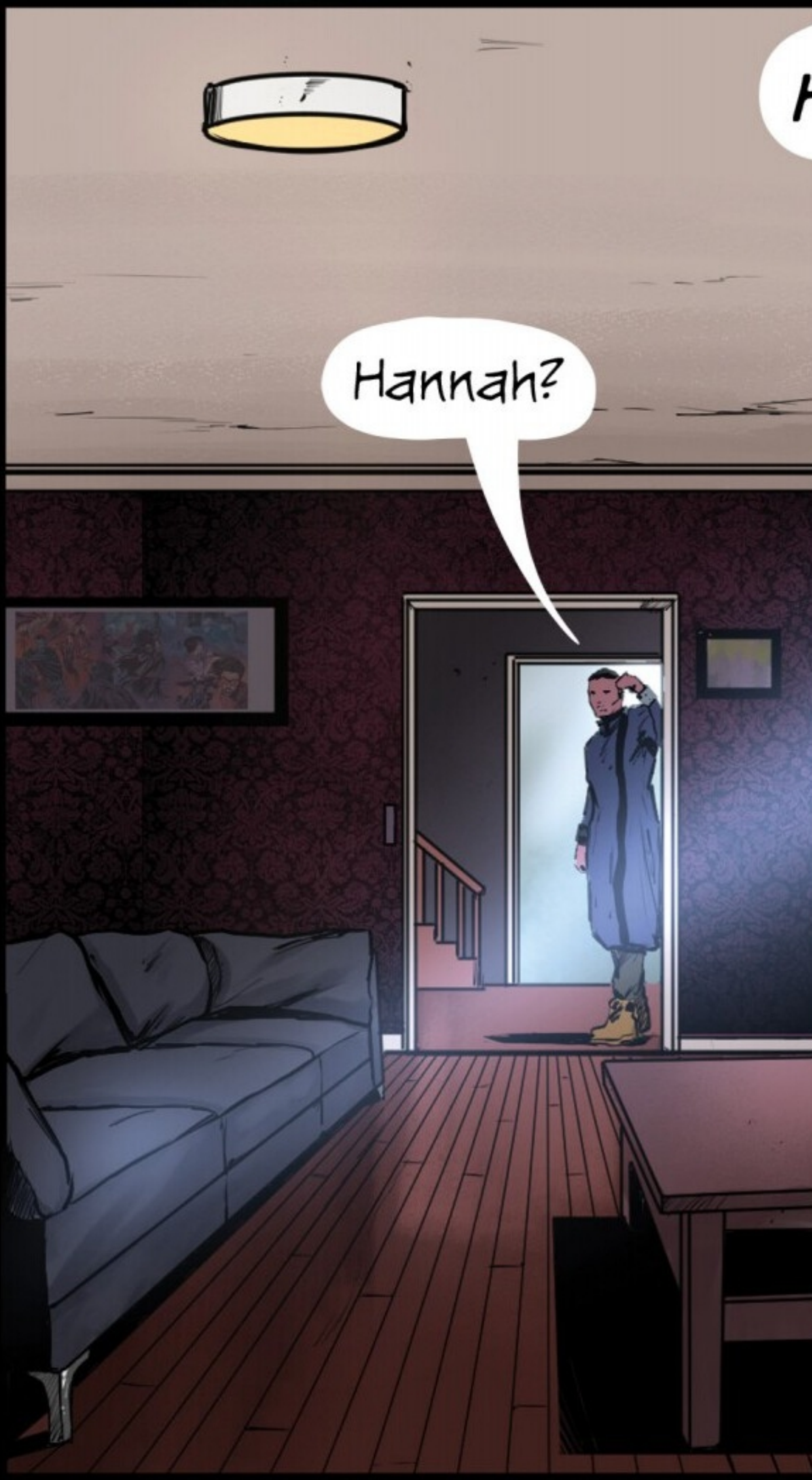


Everything's my business.

Get your hands off me. You've done your bit.



Now go play Daddy, like a good soldier.



No need to shout.





Let's find you some clothes to put on.

Oo, are we going out?



No. Just a lazy day around the house.

Then why do I need to wear these?



Because it's Christmas Day.



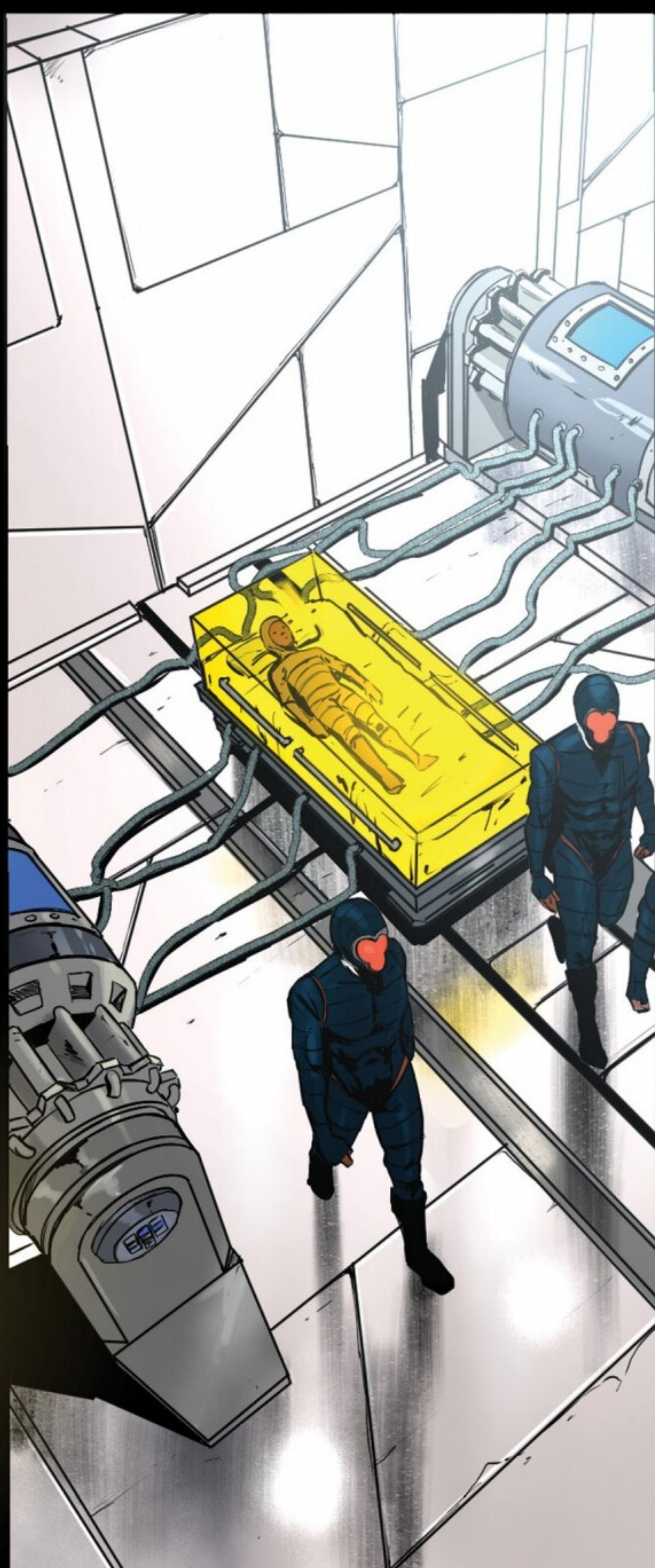
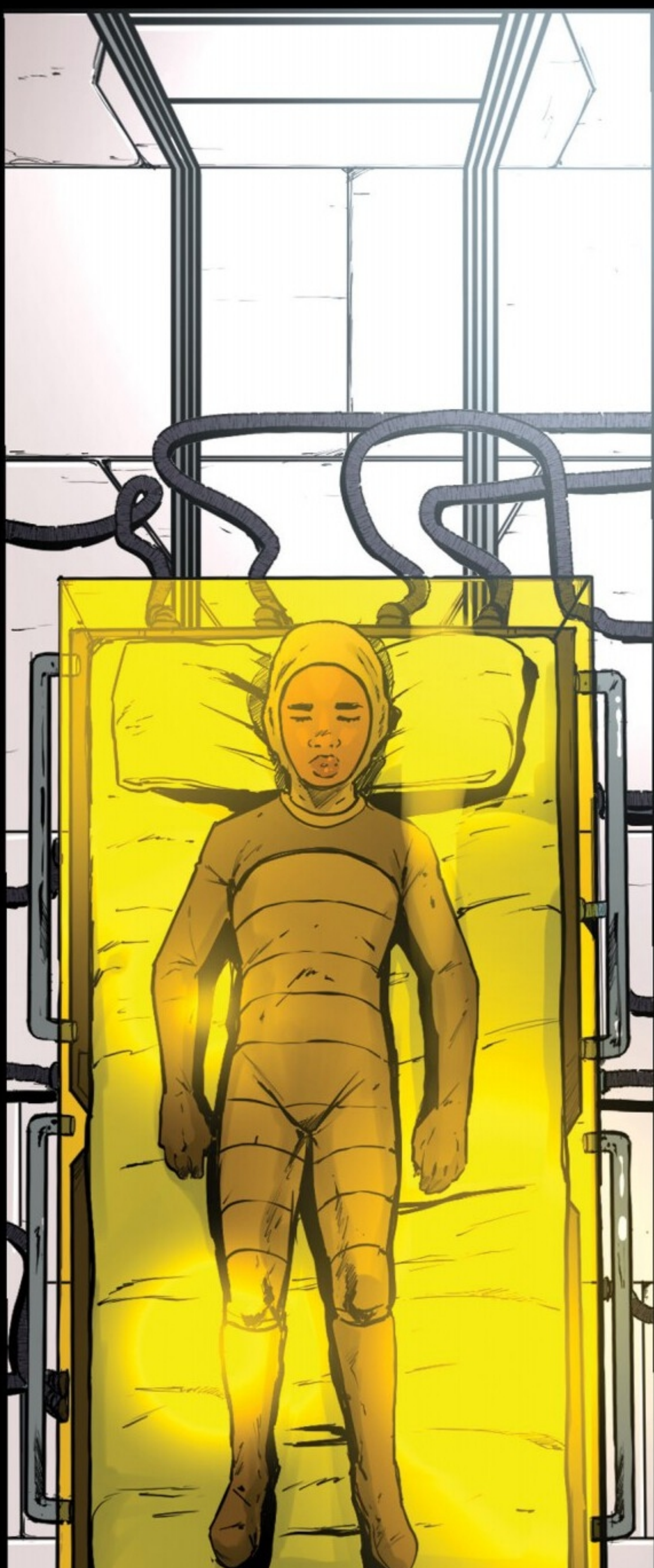
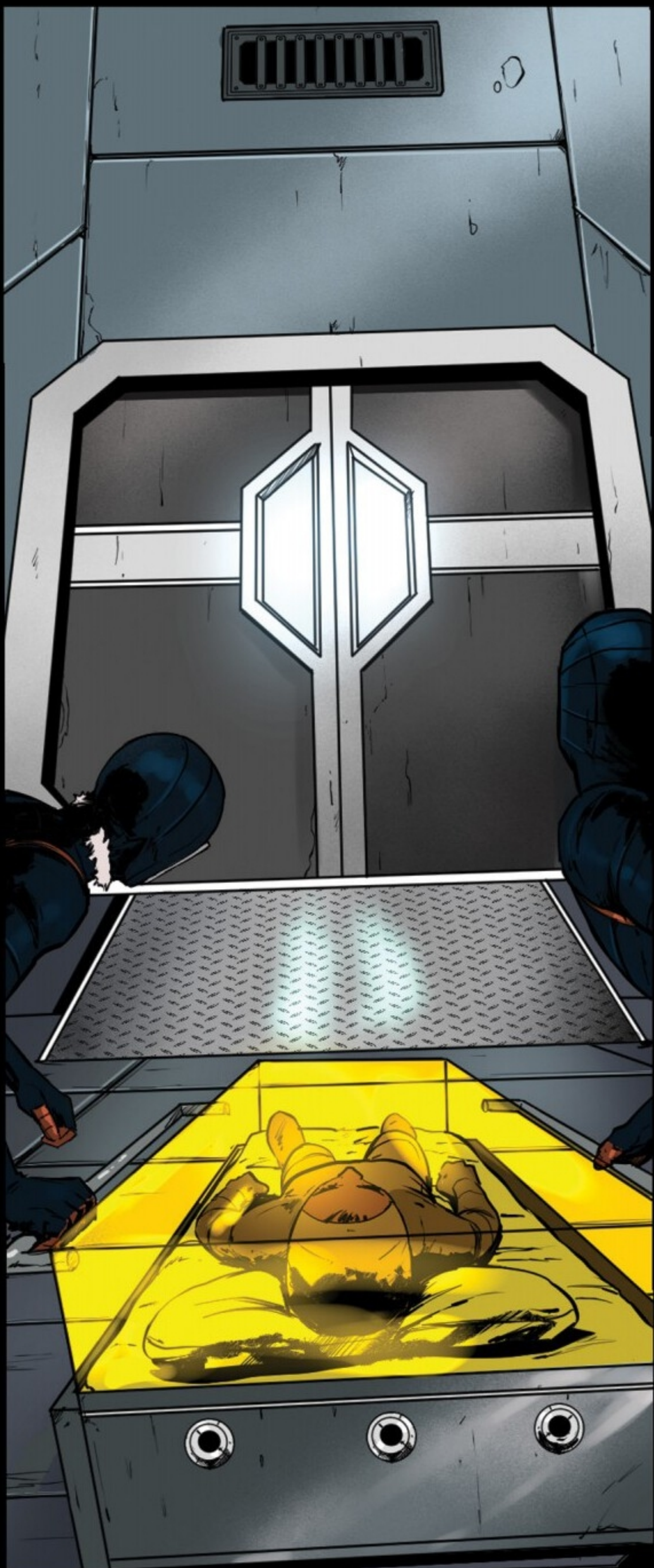
I'll see you downstairs in a few, okay?

Fifteen minutes.

No longer.

No longer.

BEEP!





Gohel?

00:00:43



Yes, Captain?

All normal?



Everything is within stated parameters.

Make sure it stays that way, Gohel.



"It's Dr Gohel."





...how much I hate surprises.





ANTARCTIC

Two days ago.

I sure do.



Why didn't Gramps and Granna want me to stay?

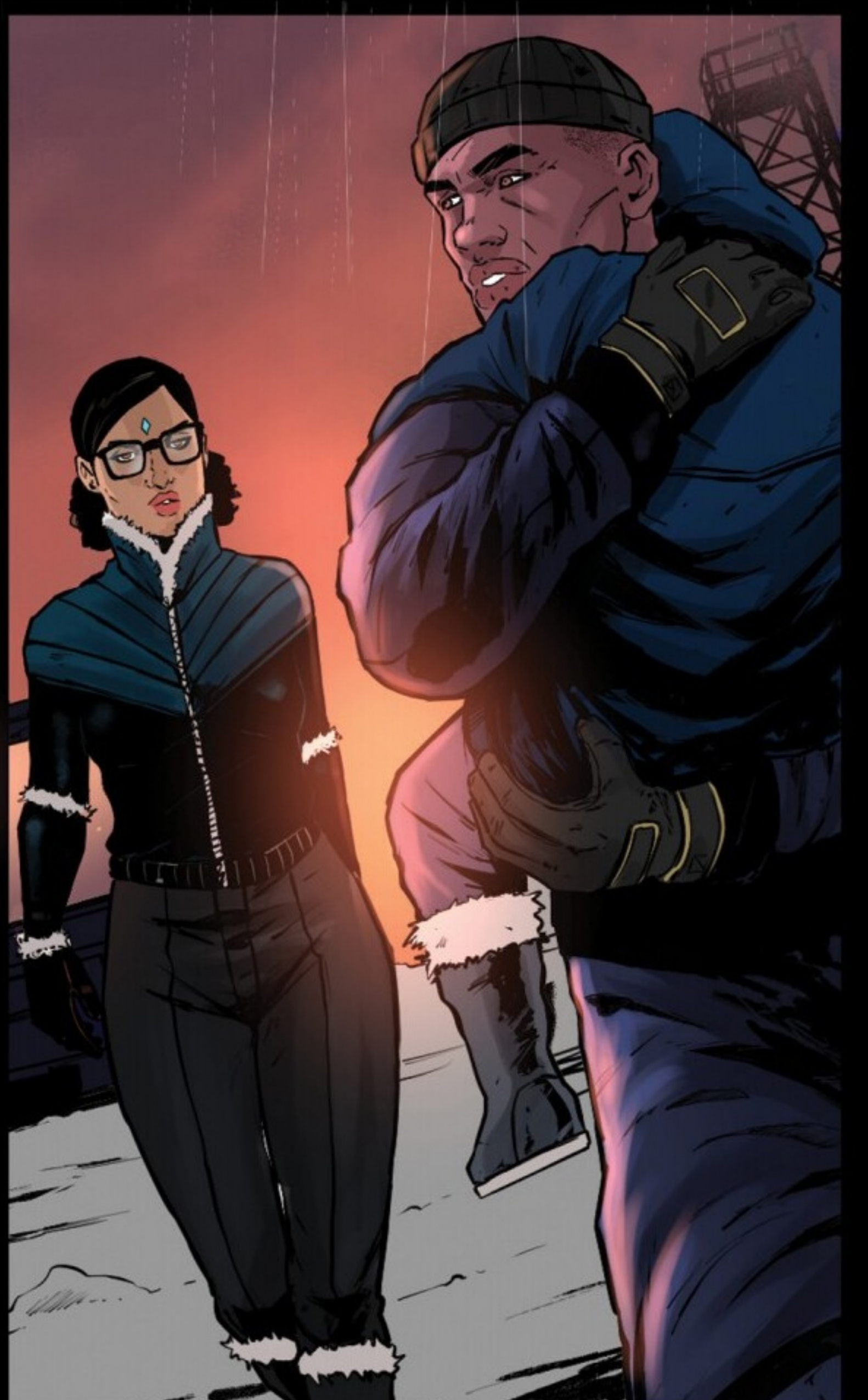


Hmmm. Sometimes, I wonder. Now, drink up.



Night...







There you go.



This is all very weird.

You're telling me.



Why do you do it, Jerome?

I have to.



Do you?



I've got to speak to Symonds.

Now.

I'll do the washing up.

Okay, so who are you -- and what have you done with my daughter?

That'd be telling.

Huh.

Come on, that's my job. You go and watch cartoons.

Dad. Do I have...

...





Am I still asleep?



Locked.



Only one way to find out.



Pull the curtain back.



Hello, Hannah.
I'm Dr Gohel.

A doctor.
Am I unwell?



No, no. You're
fine. But you must
listen to me, okay?

Okay.

You're not home.
You were brought
here as part of
an experiment.

Experiment?

Yes. I helped
them, and for that
I'm sorry. Look, I've
got to be quick.

There's a chance I
can help you, if you'd
like to be helped?

Excellent. Right.
Listen carefully.

"There's also a small
comms device I want
you to put in your ear.

Yes, please.

All right. If you
feel at the end of
your mattress, I
put a pass there.

That will
get you out of
the building.

Got it.

"I hid it under your
clothes in the top drawer.
Put it in your ear, and
you'll be able to hear me."



I want you to put the card against this window. That should unlock it.

CLICK!



Then push it open. It's at the back of the structure, where only I'm monitoring.



Then make your way along the bridge. It rattles, but that's underfunding for you.



At the end there's a ladder that leads to the ground. Go all the way down and I'll meet you there.



There's someone there.

Sh... oot!



Hanny?

Daddy?
Where am I?

You've got
to go up.



Just stay
there.

Don't let
him get you,
Hannah.



But he's
my dad?

I'm so sorry,
Hannah, but you
can't trust him.

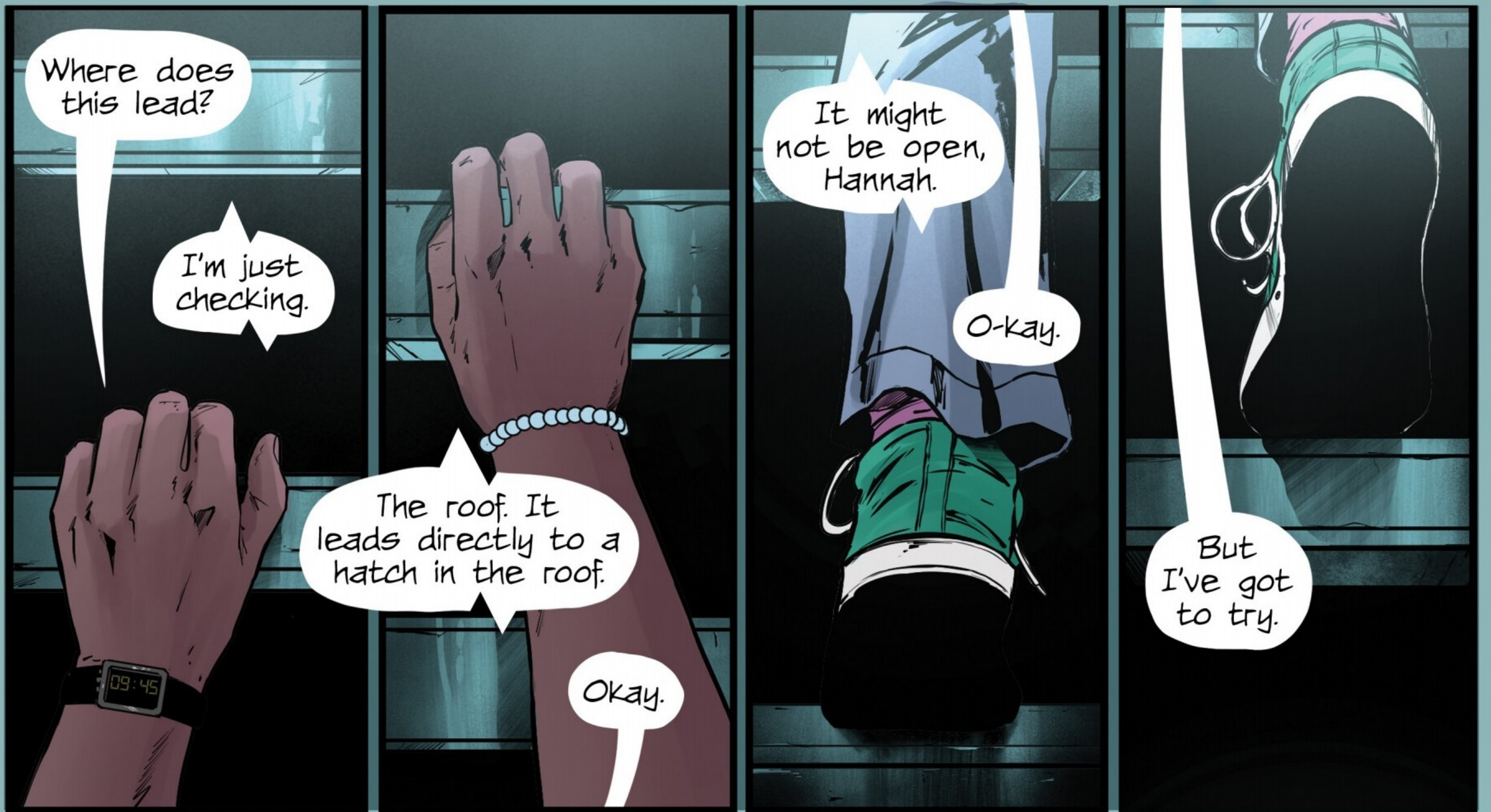


Captain
Williams, the
bird has flown
the nest. I
repeat...

I heard you.
I'm on my way.
Just keep it to
us, understand.



Affirmative.





...you're in
Antarctica,
Hannah.

Holy crapoly.

Don't go
out there, Hanny!
You'll freeze.





The snow should
be powdery.



And you're light.



Keep your
balance and focus
on the ground.



And you
should be
fine.



Stay there, Hanny.
I'll come down.



Ungh. It
still hurt.



I'm on my
way, Hannah.



THUD!



Just hold up, Curtis.



Get out of my way!

How did she get out?



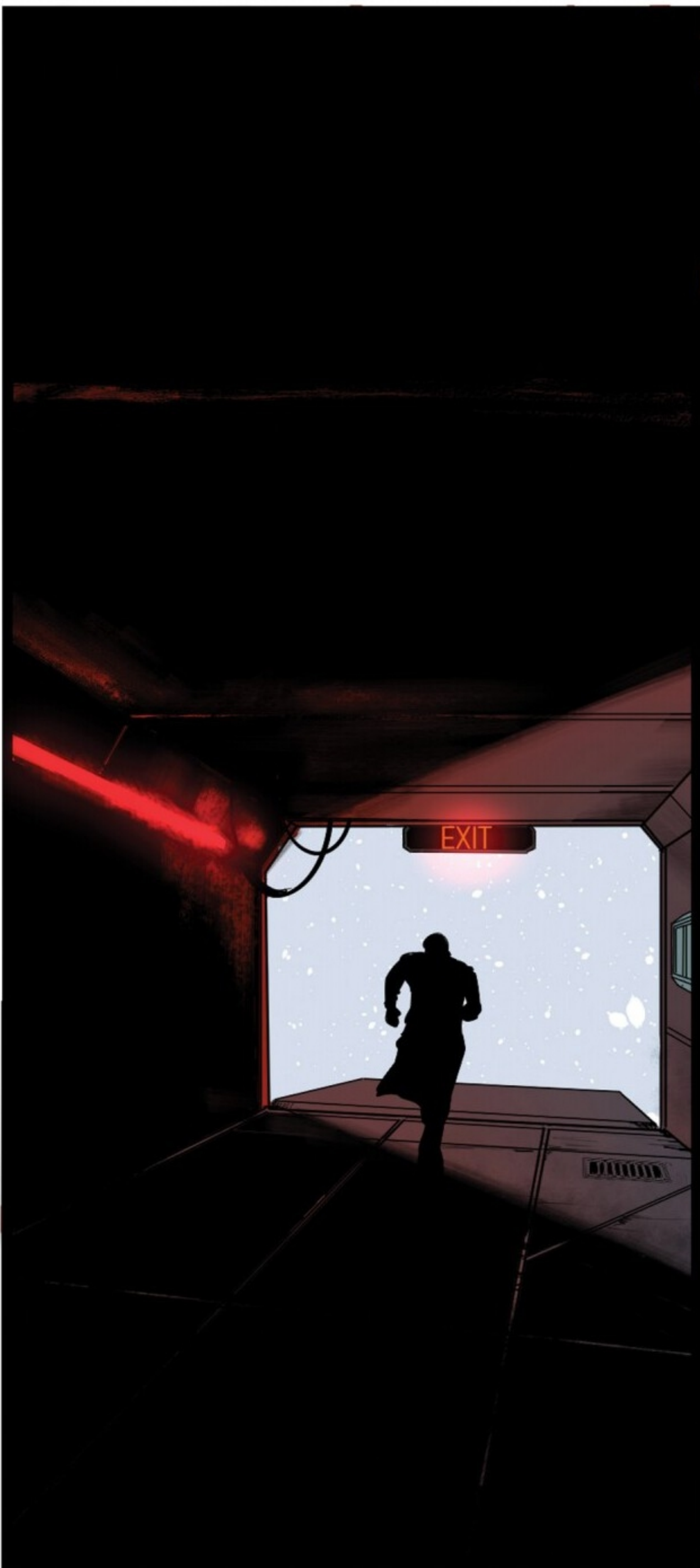
How the hell would I know?

If I find out you did this...



Why would I let her out here? It's Antarctica. She'll freeze.

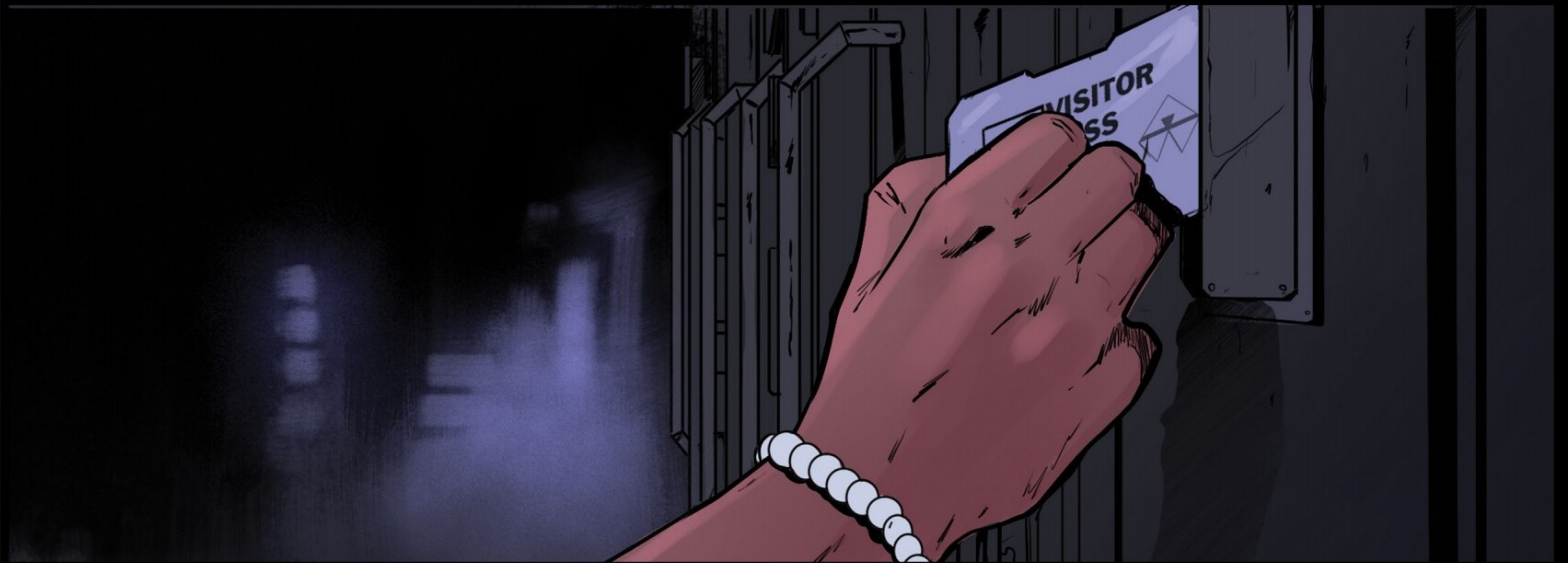
I'm watching you, *Curtis*!

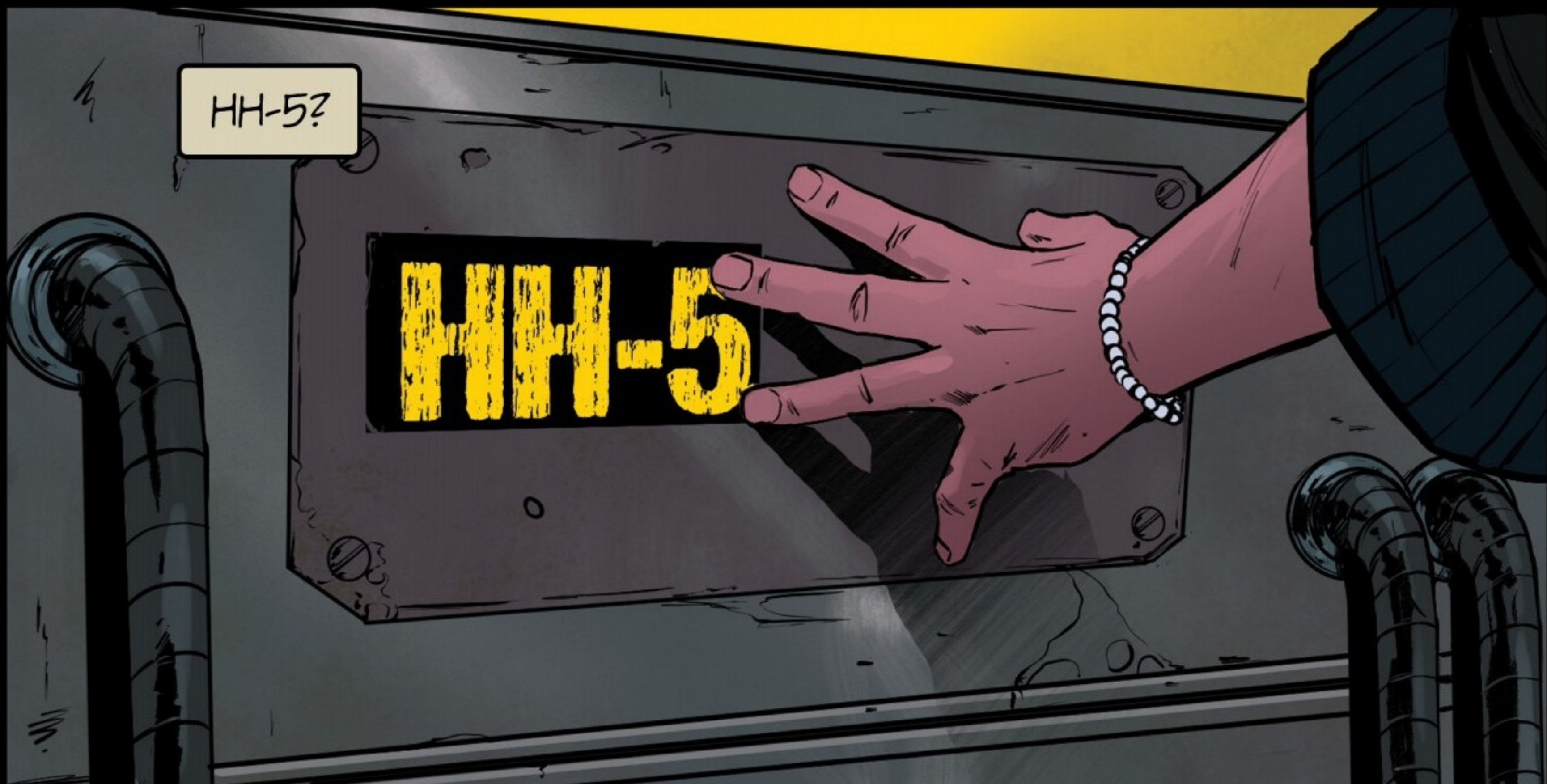






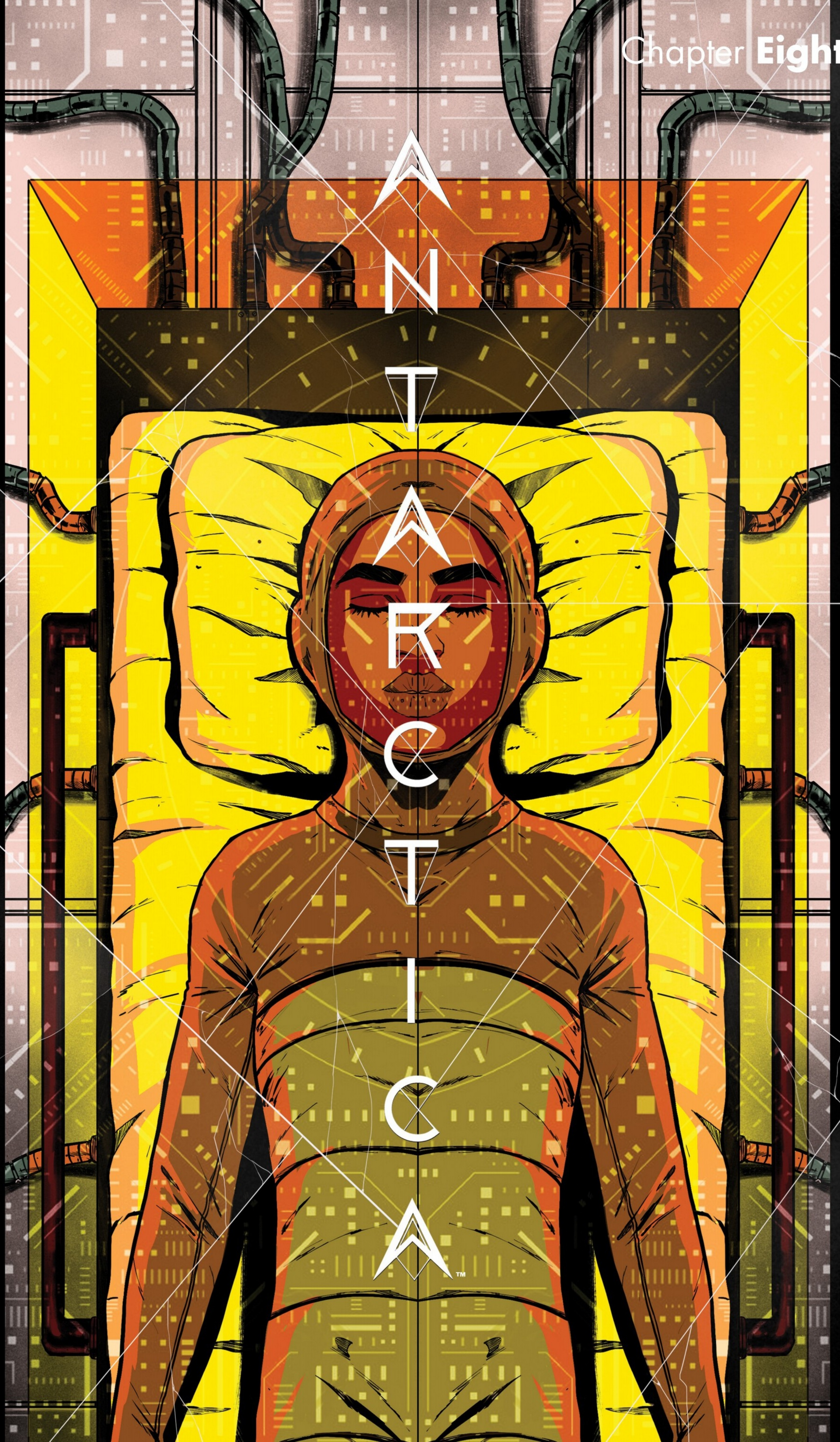








And if you are,
why do you look
just like me?



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King's College, Cambridge University. Six years ago.



Excuse me?



Can I help you?



I hope so.

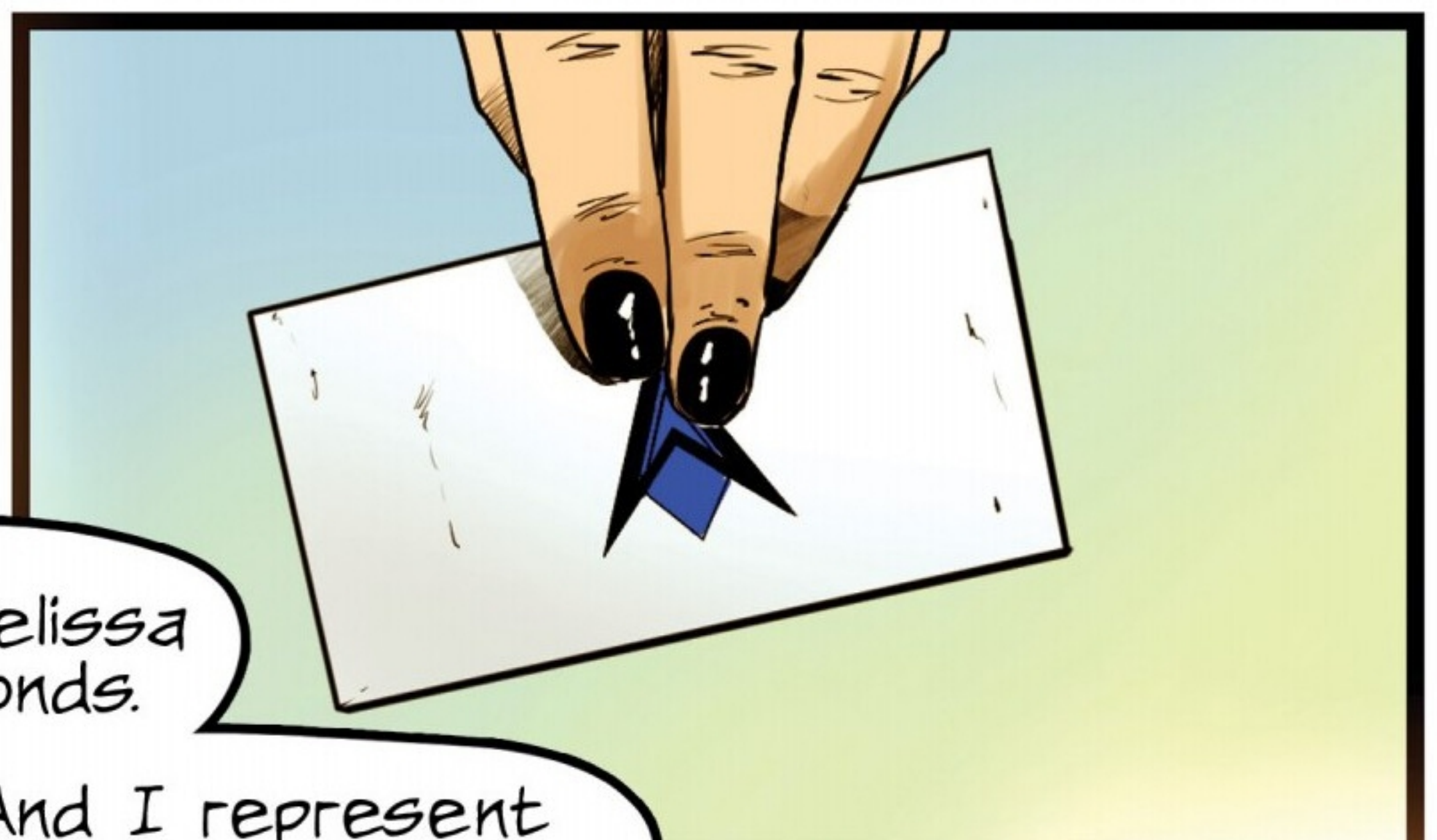
If it's about the party, I left before it got started.

It's not about a party.

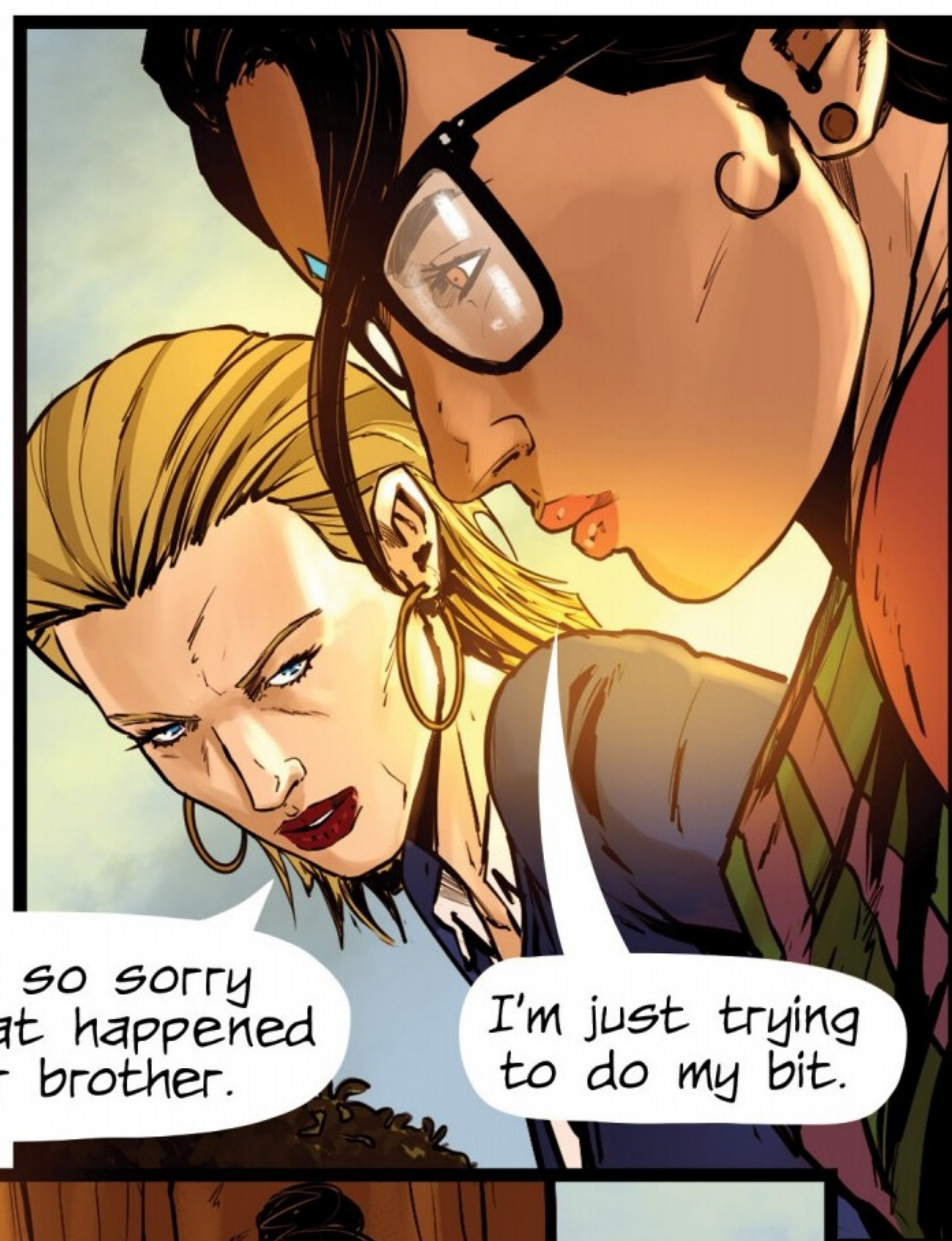
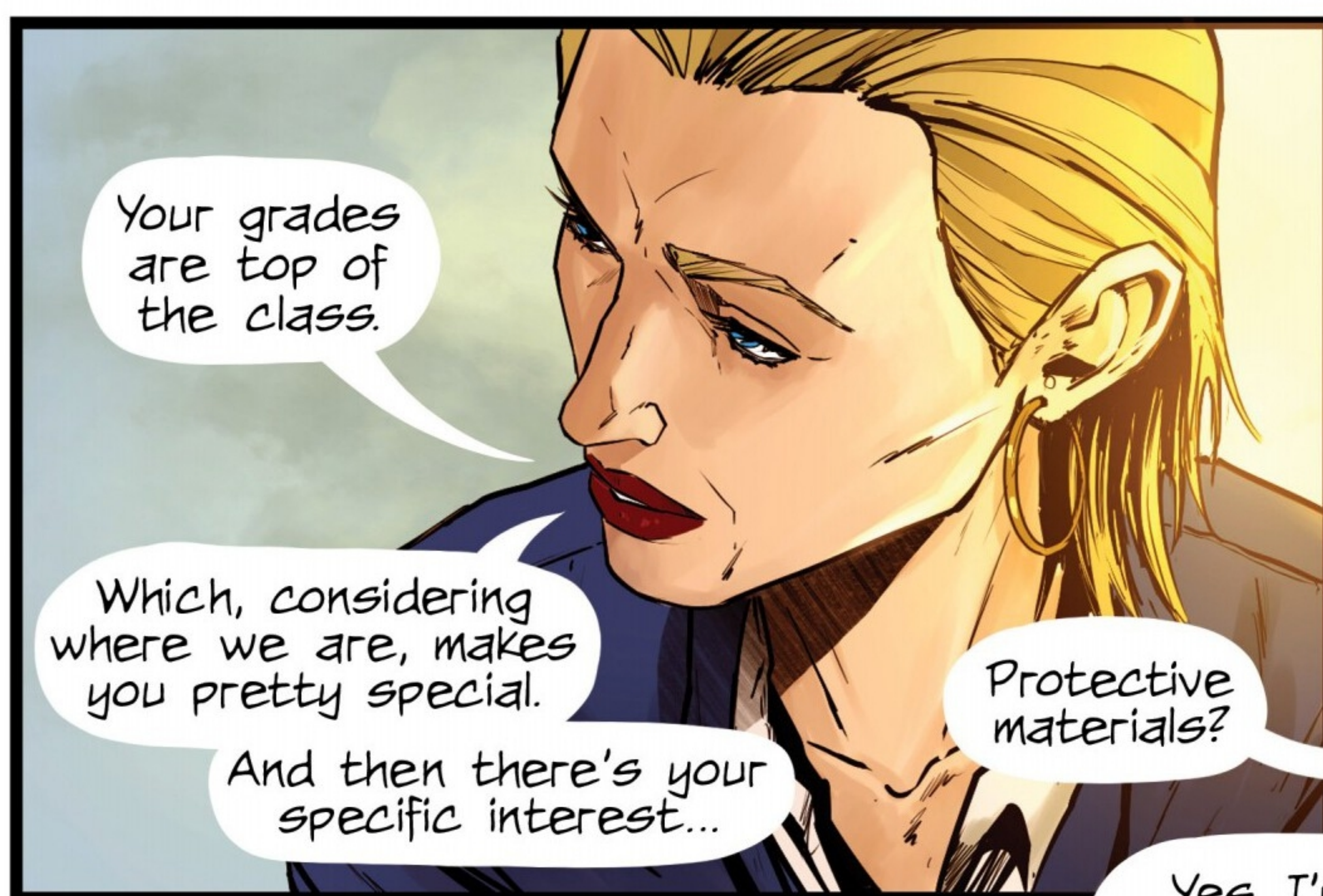
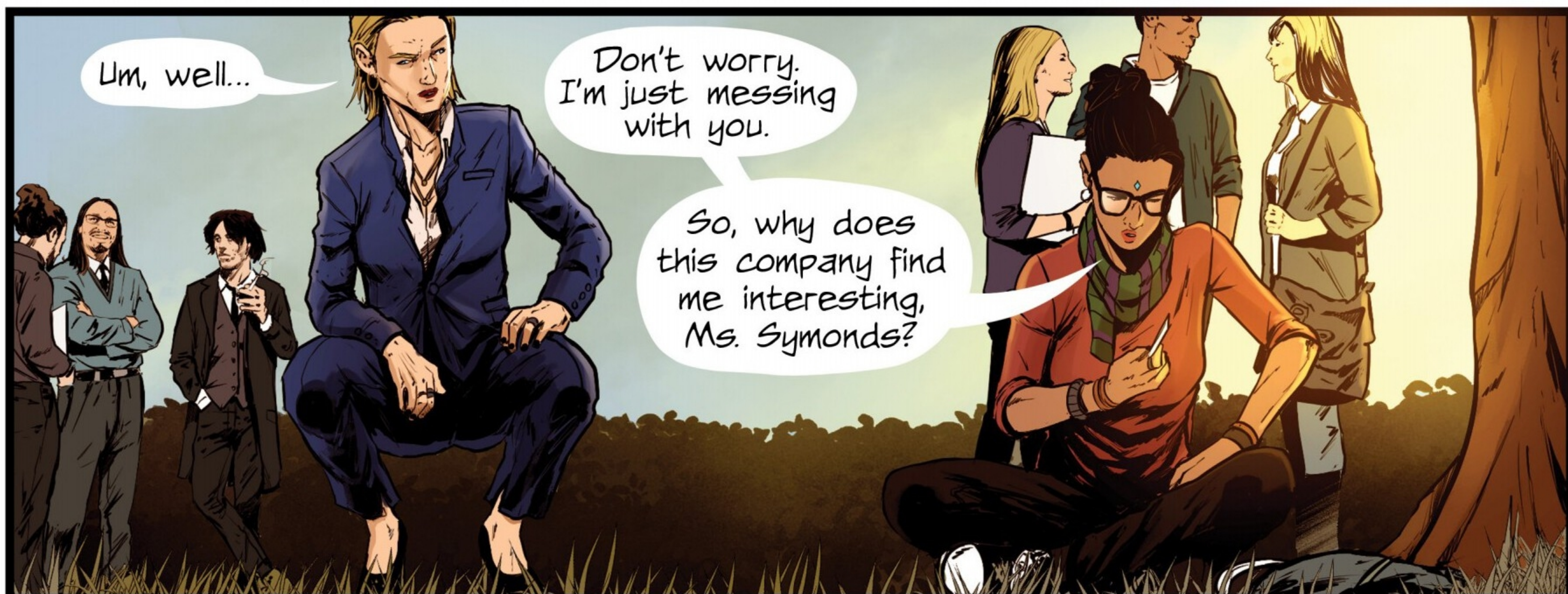


I'm Melissa Symonds.

And I represent a company that is interested in you.



Gosh, nothing sinister about that, right?





Lab Two, Smith-Petersen
Antarctic Base. Now.

Let's try my birthday.

"INCORRECT CODE."

Er, first time I
had ice cream.

"INCORRECT CODE."

Eve's birthday?

"INCORRECT CODE.
KEYPAD LOCKED."

NO!

STUPID
MACHINES.

Uh-oh.

What is it?



Someone's trying to open the containment chamber.

It's got to be Williams. I never trusted him.



I believe the feeling is mutual.

Huh. What should we do?

What are you doing?



Just a hunch.



SEARCHING CARD...

One moment.

Thank the gods. She might have lost her comms device, but the keycard I gave her was used to enter the base.



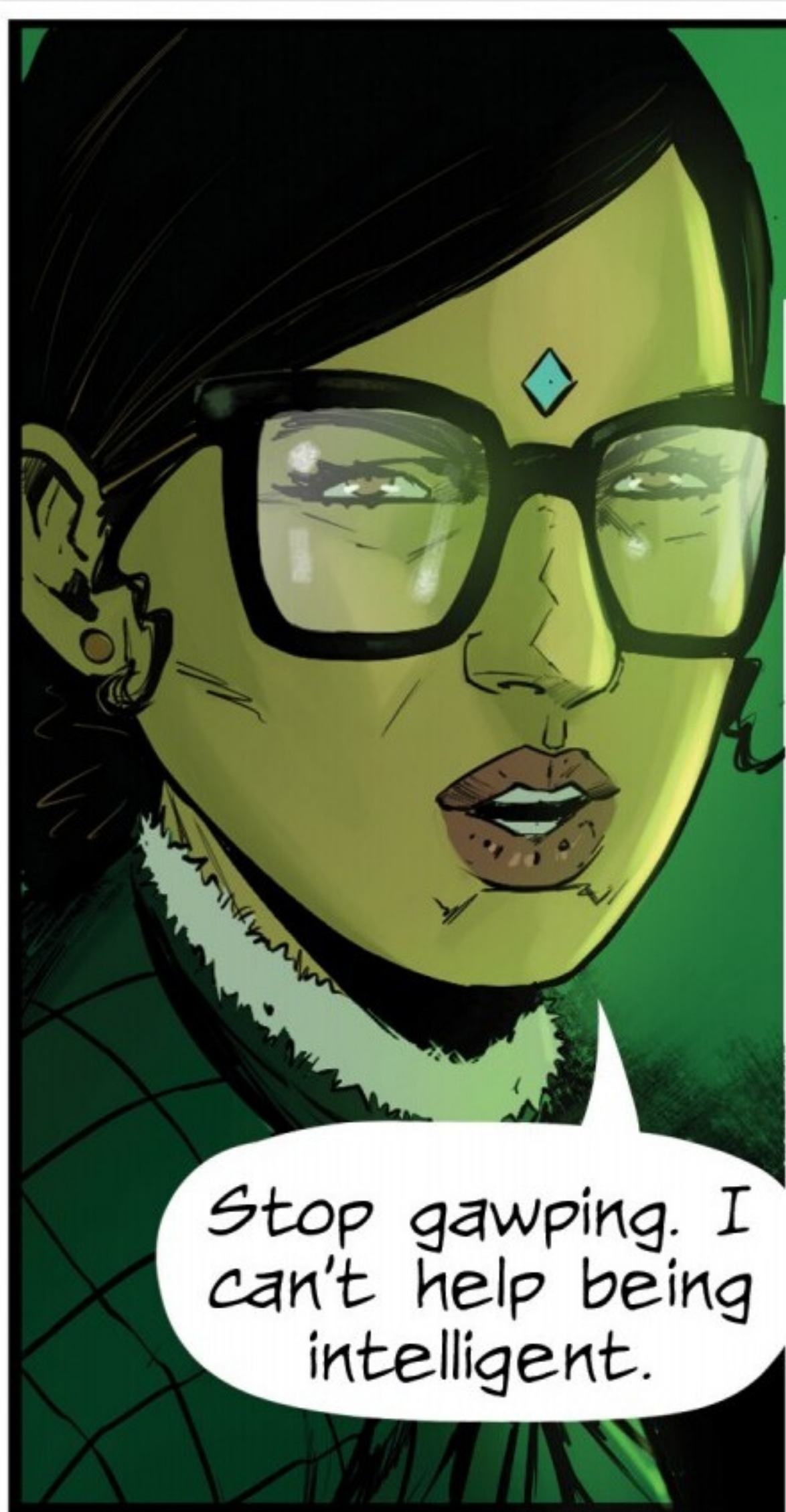
Let's go.



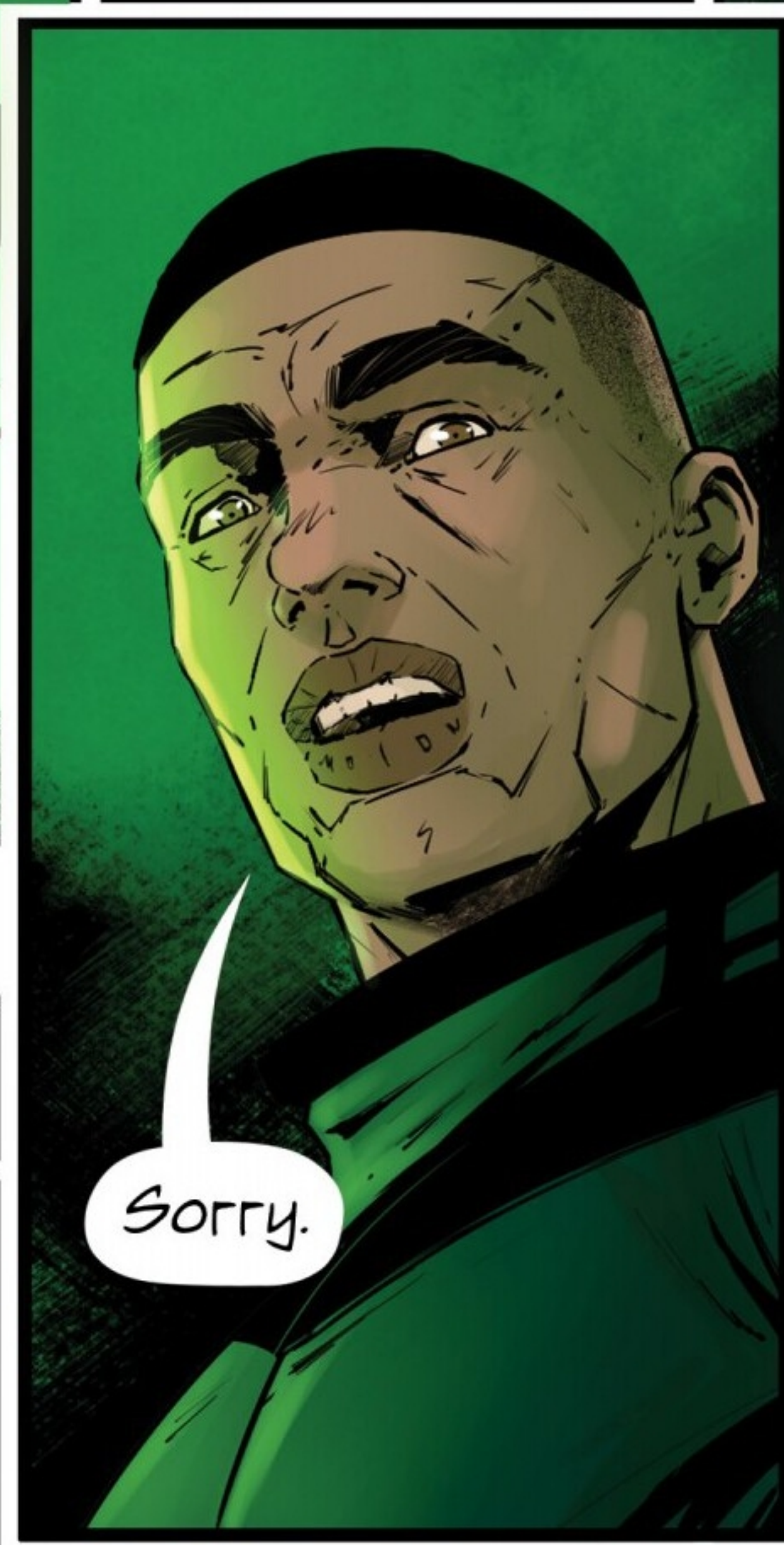




I'm an admin on the IT system. With a couple of commands, I can view any camera here.



Stop gawping. I can't help being intelligent.



Sorry.



There. Now, keep comms open, and I'll keep you updated.

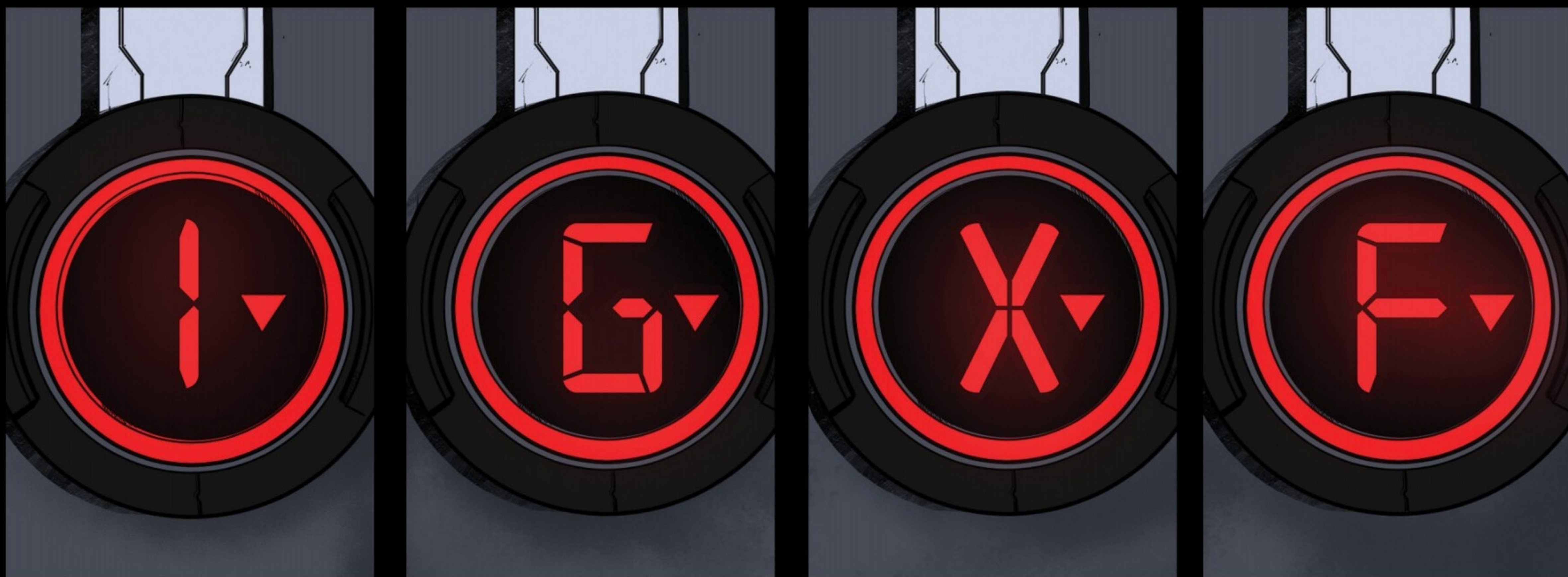
Why are you doing this?



Because...

in my search for an answer, I lost sight of the question.







What's that?

That's the only thing we have that lets people pass through the Fracture.



It's so bulky.

And that's why we need you to improve it.

We need a material that is flexible.



Oh, is that all?

We're not expecting miracles.

Well, not right away.



Okay. I need to rest. Then I'll get started.

Sounds great.



One last question. What's on floor X?

Ah, the thing is -- if I told you I'd...

Yeah, yeah. Sinister, sinister.

Smith-Petersen Antarctic Base. Now.

Any sign?

None.

Wherever she is, she's avoiding the cameras.



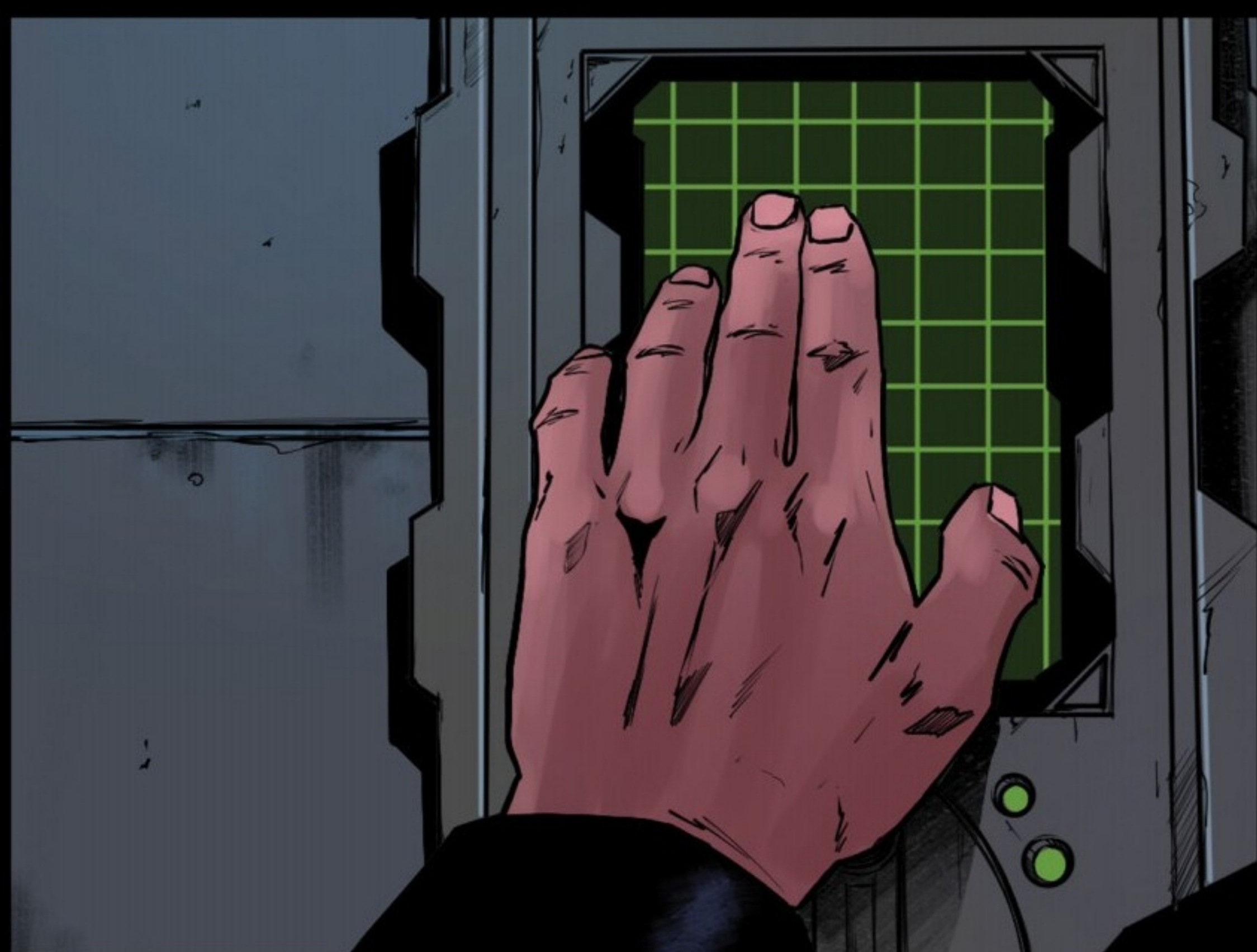
Hello, Hannah.
We've been
looking for you.



I'm outside Lab Two. Just going to check on... well, this Hannah.

Have you got a picture yet?

Nothing.



Oh, no.

What?



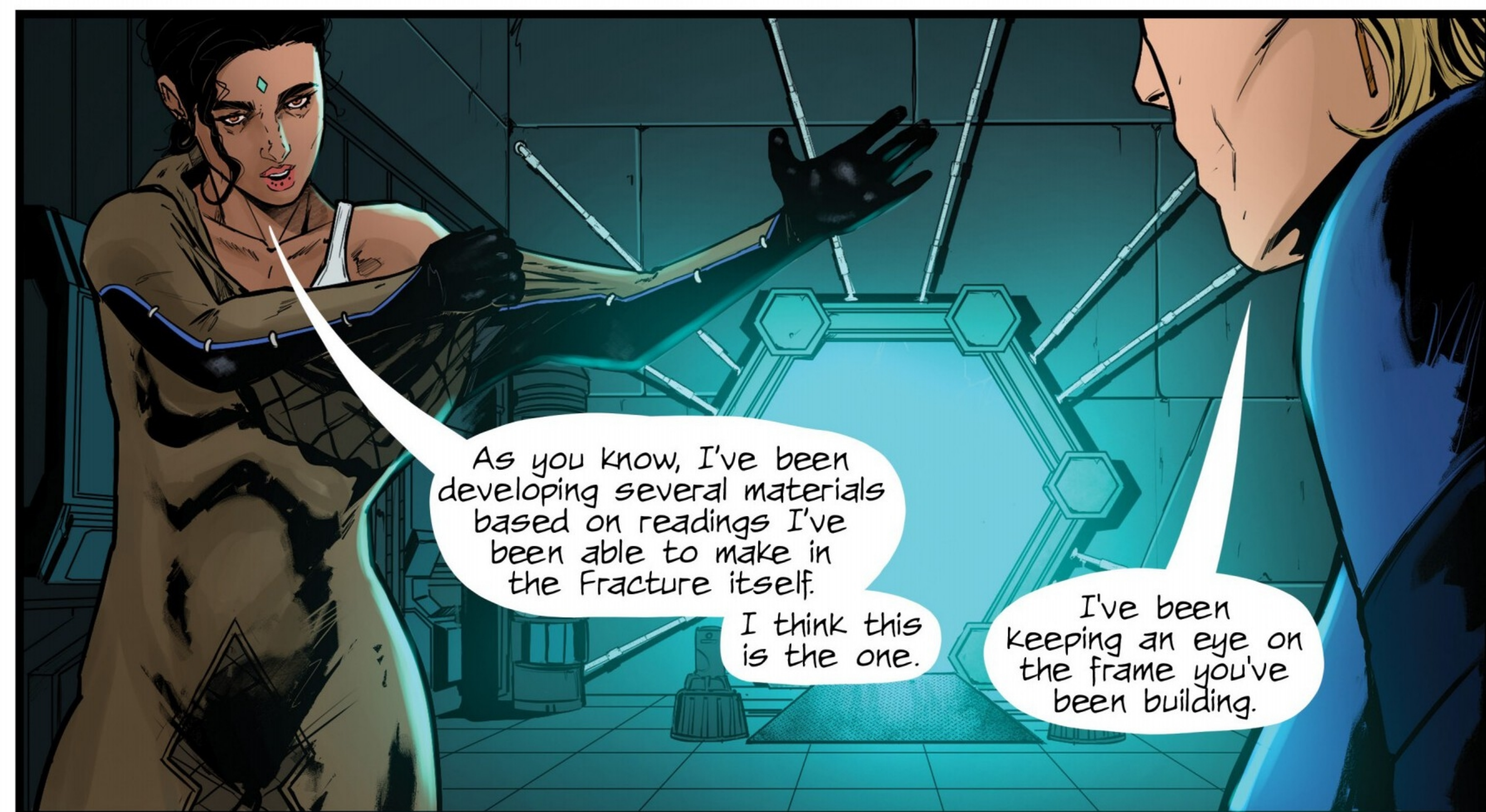
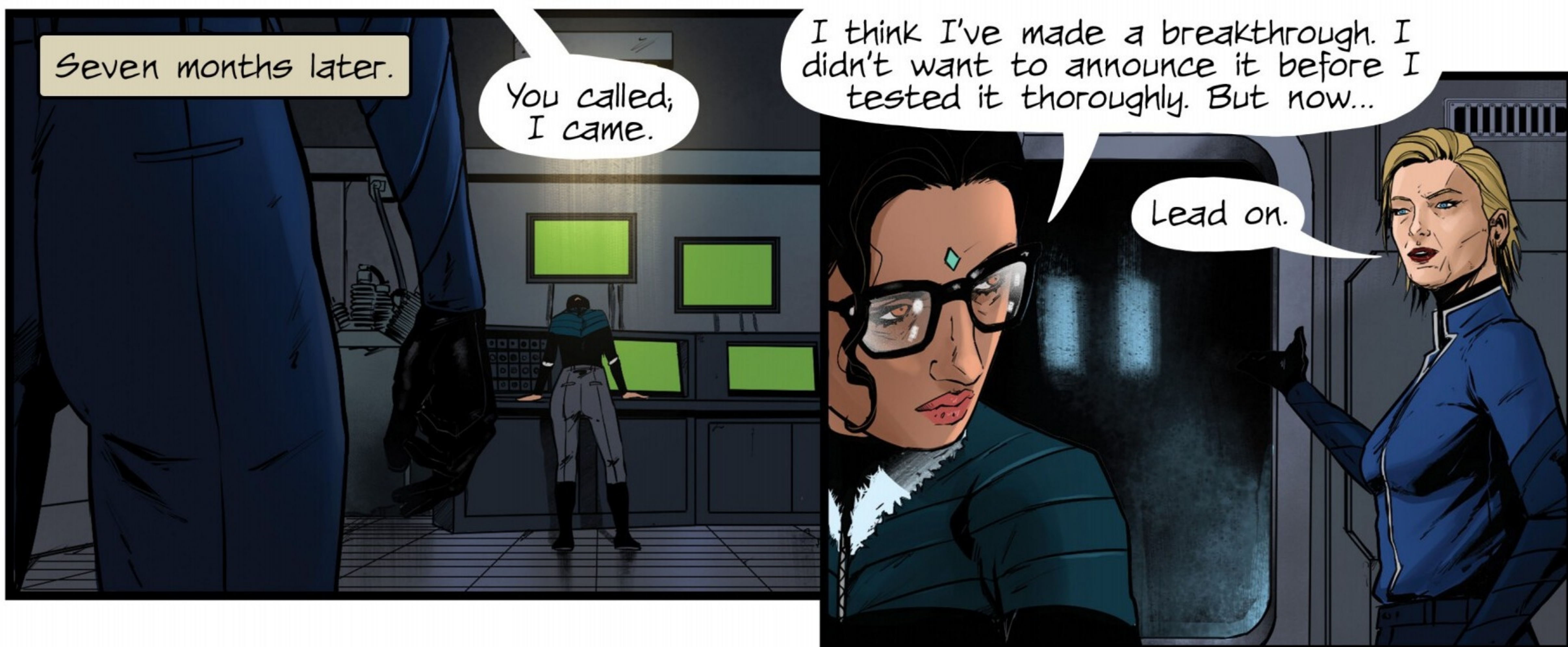
The room's empty. They've taken her somewhere else.

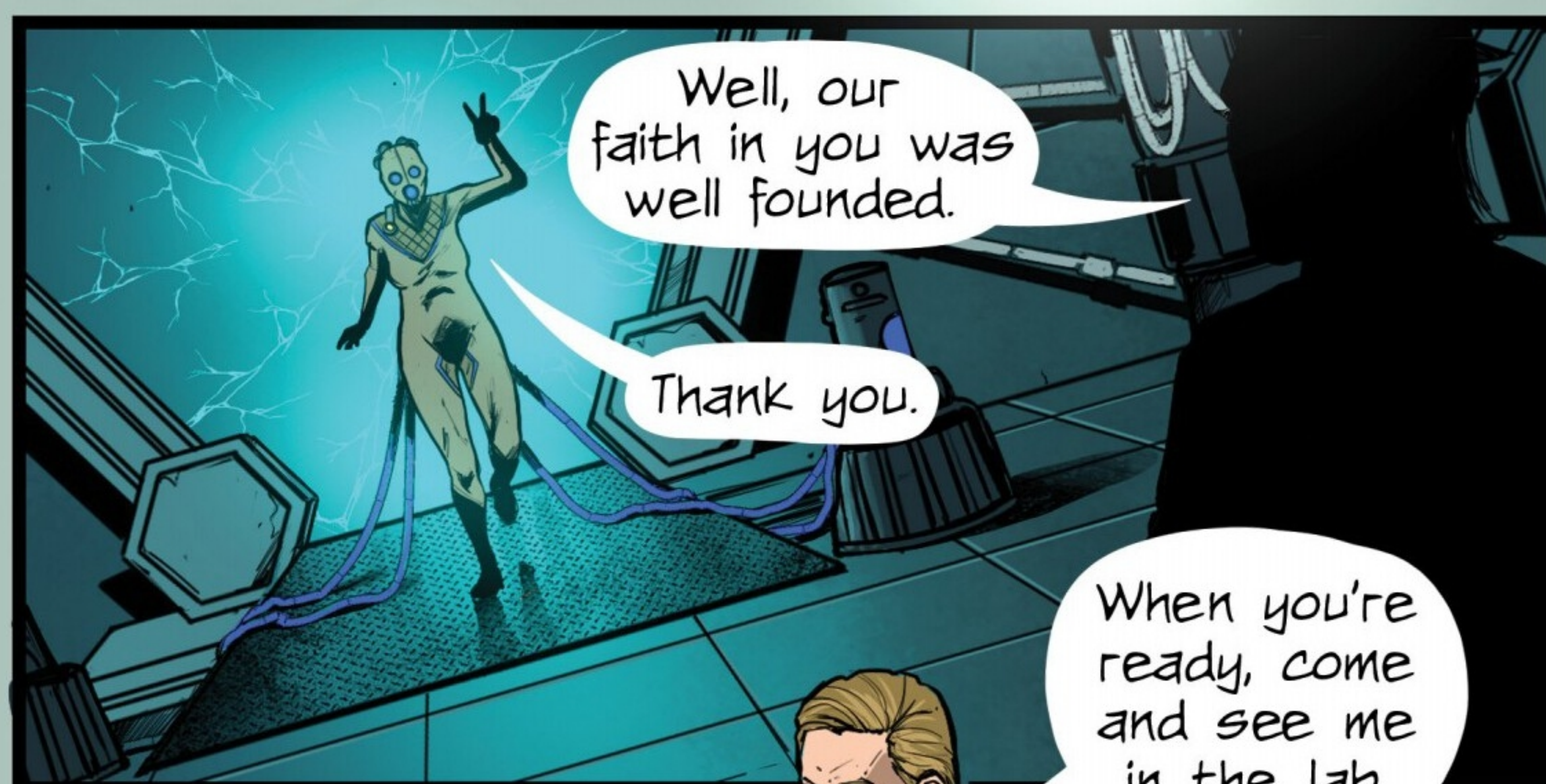
My god, we've lost them both.

Don't worry, Jerome, we'll find them. We will.









Smith-Petersen
Antarctica Base. Now.

Where...
am I?

Just relax,
Hannah. Everything is
going to be fine.

I can't move!
What's happening?

Do it, now.



Holy shit. I've
found them,
Jerome.

Where?

The Fracture. They're
putting Hannah into
the Fracture with
no protection.

They're
killing her.



What the hell are you doing, Melissa?

She won't survive.

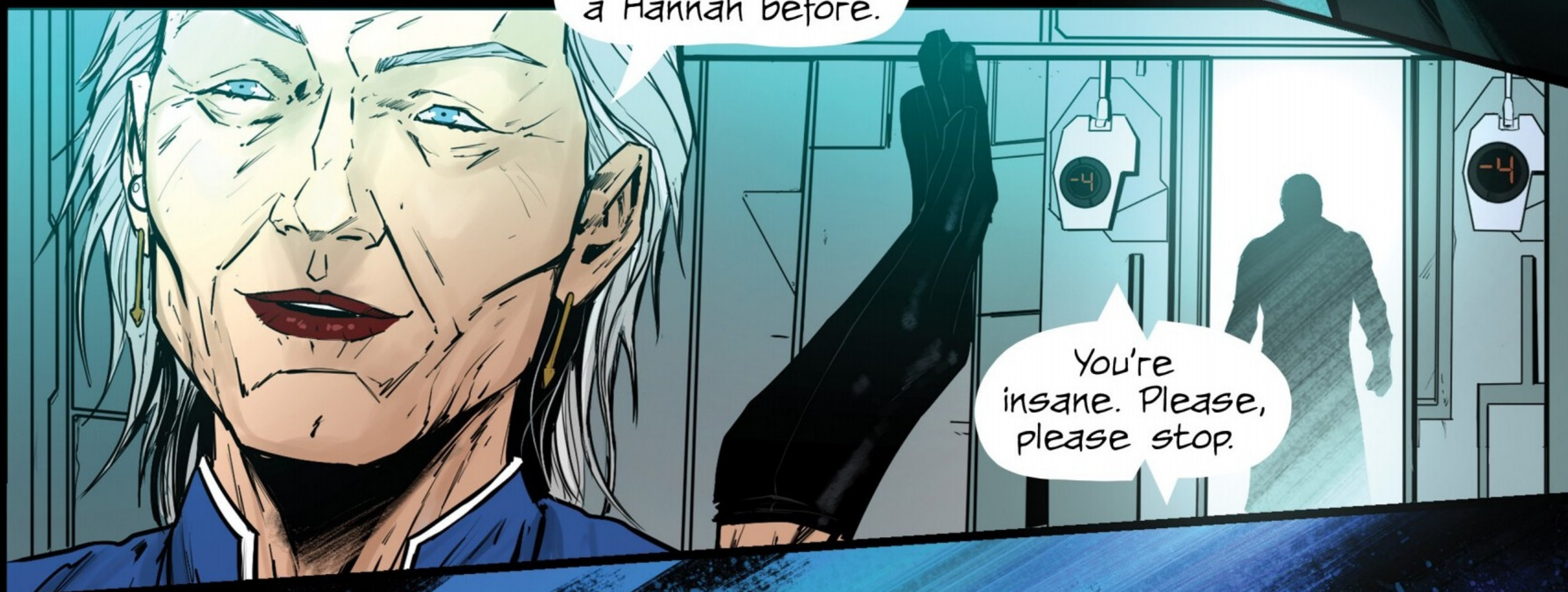


The people I work for need results, Dr Gohel.

I didn't think you'd be able to do this test.

Stop it, now. You know what happens when people go in unshielded.

Some people. We've never tried a Hannah before.



You're insane. Please, please stop.

Daddy!



Curtis, stand down. That's an order.

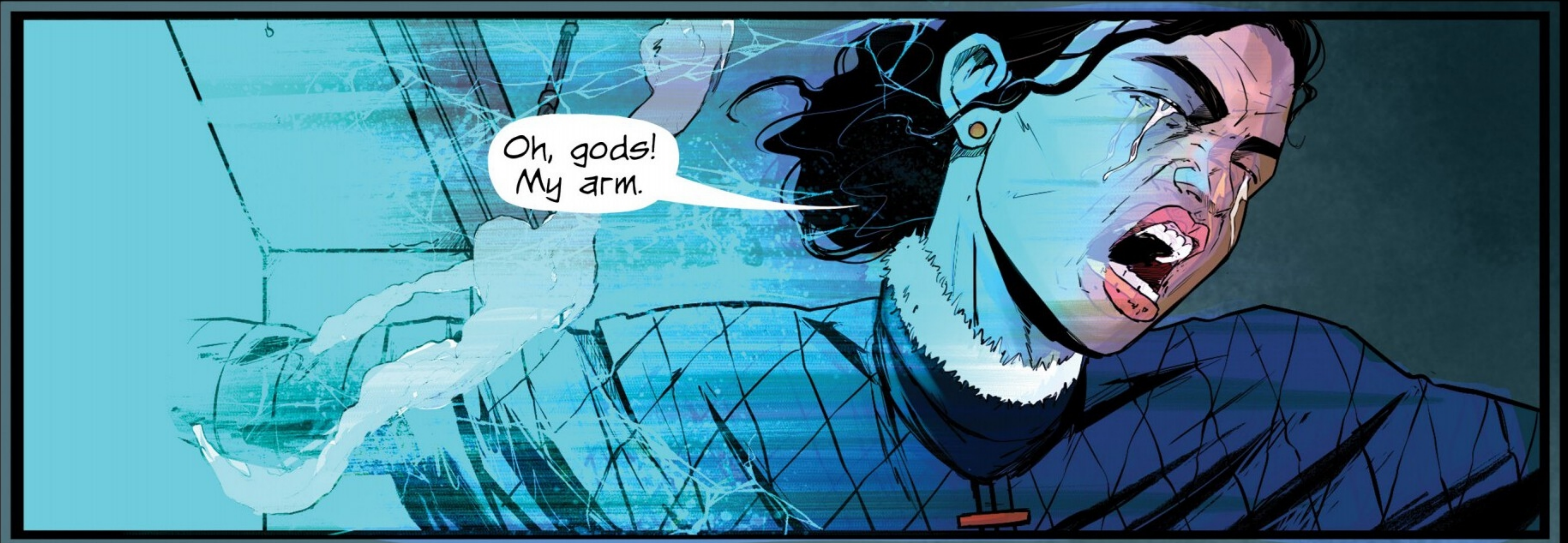


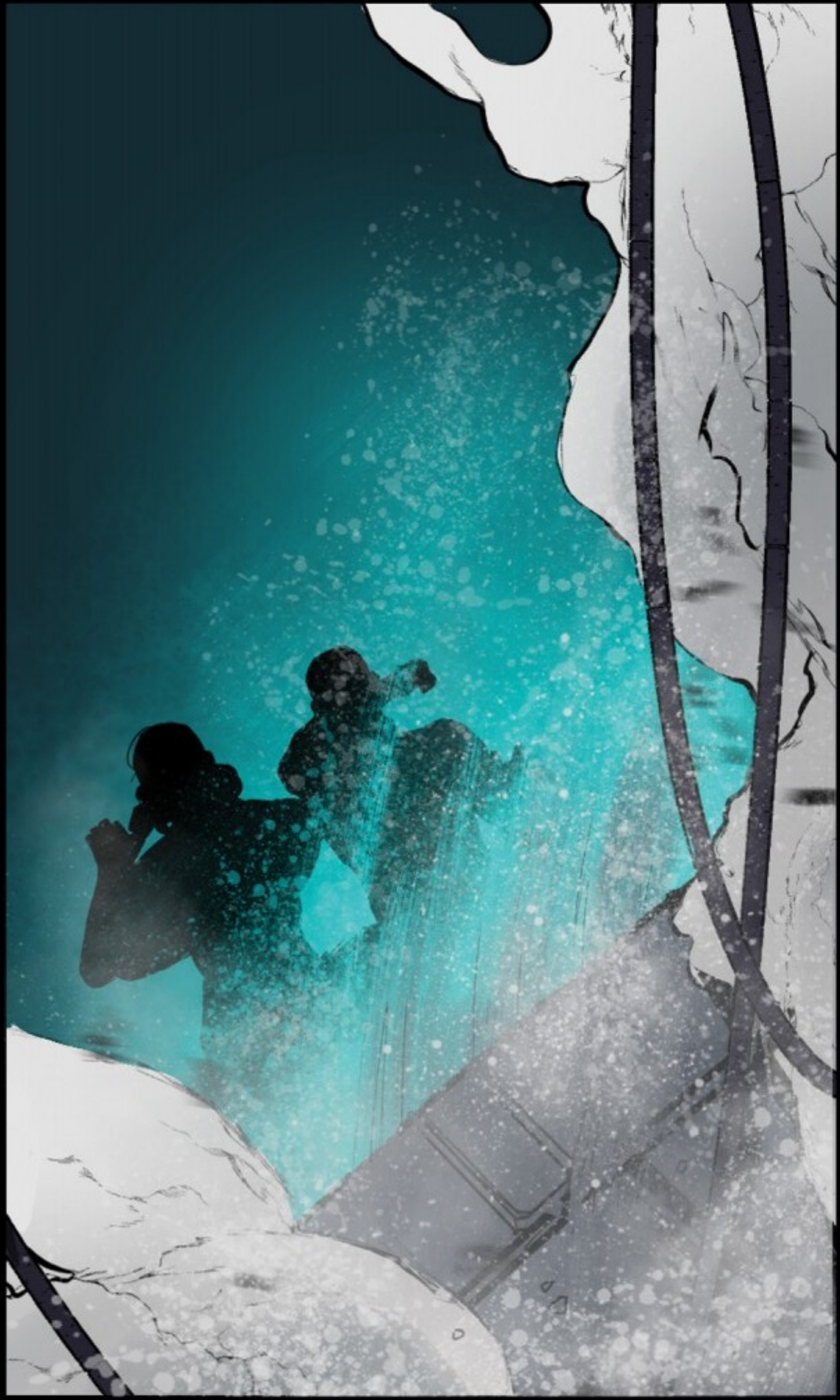
Fuck orders.

HELP!









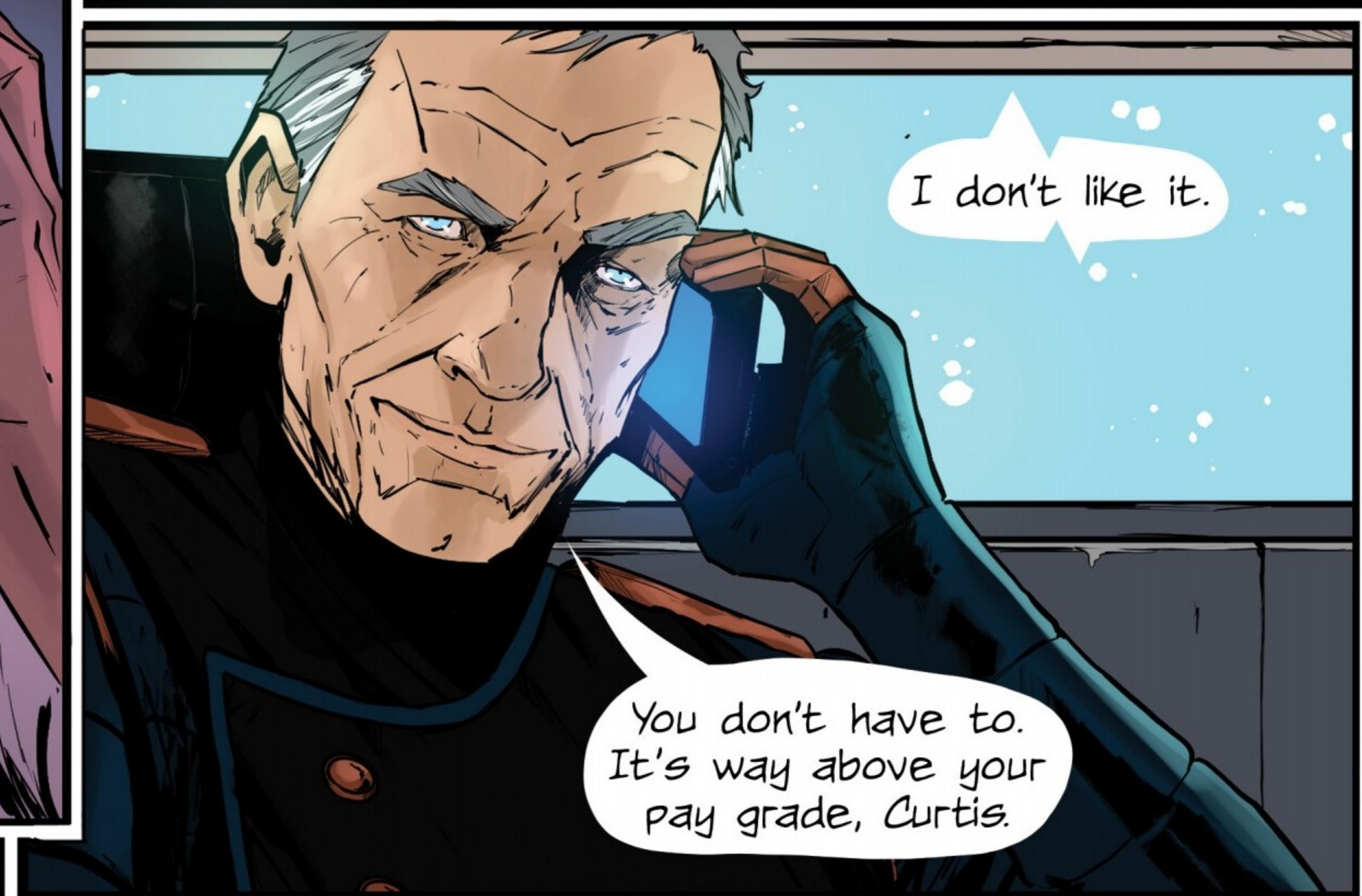
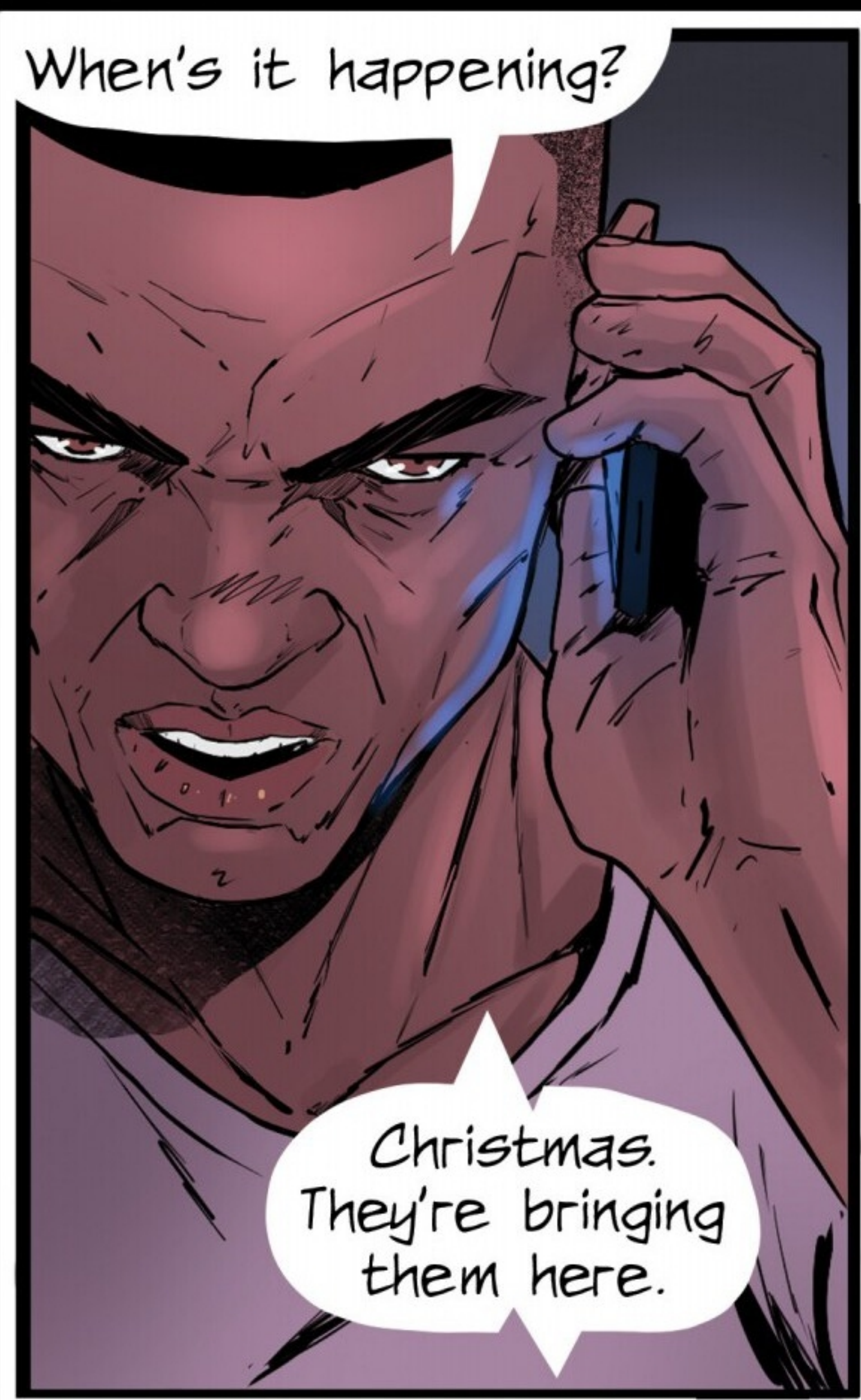


I've never
seen anything
like it before.



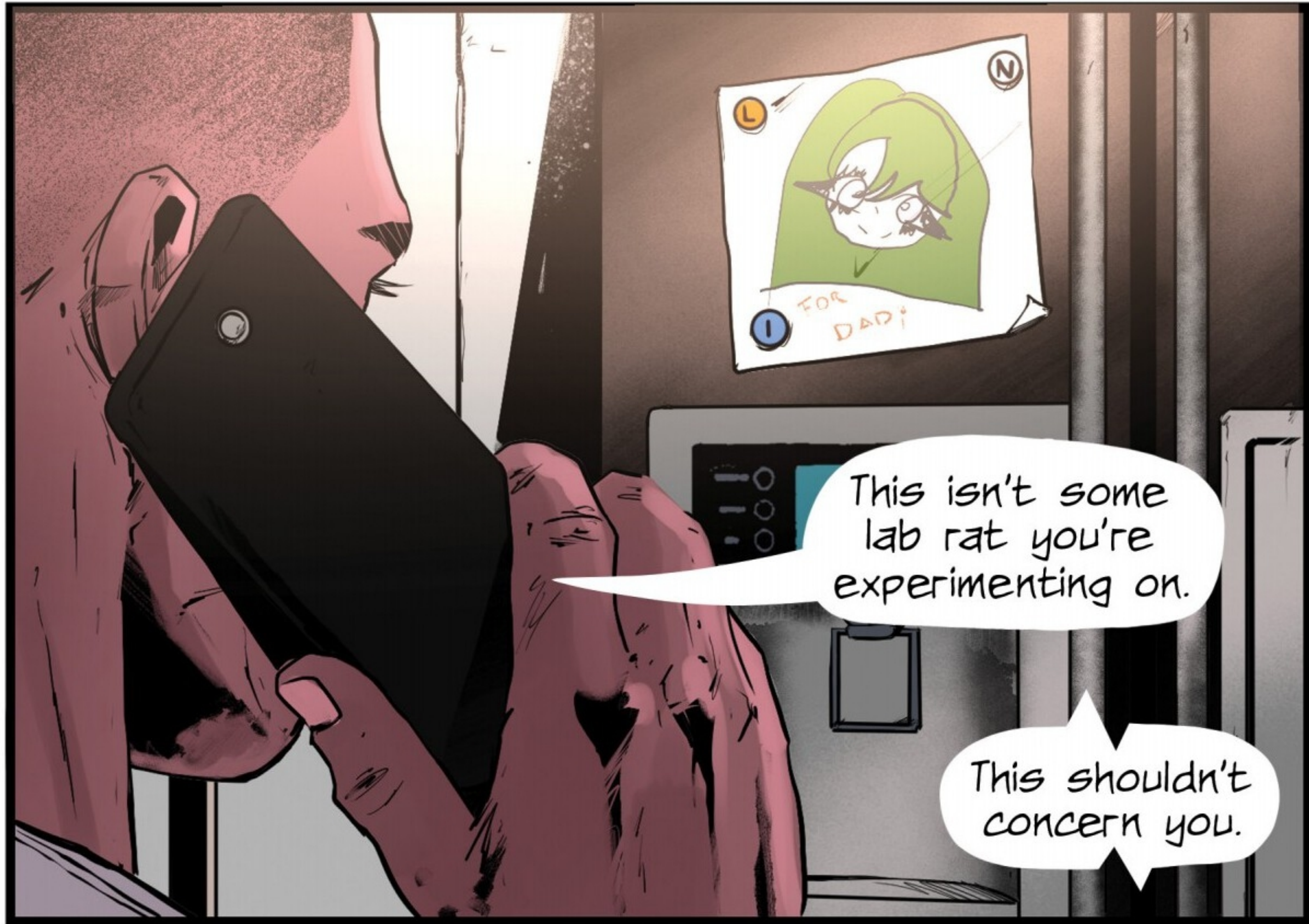


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I'm just asking if it's necessary.

What's it to you?



This isn't some lab rat you're experimenting on.

This shouldn't concern you.

It's not just your arse, Bob.

We're all going to be accountable if it goes wrong.

I didn't call you to debate it...

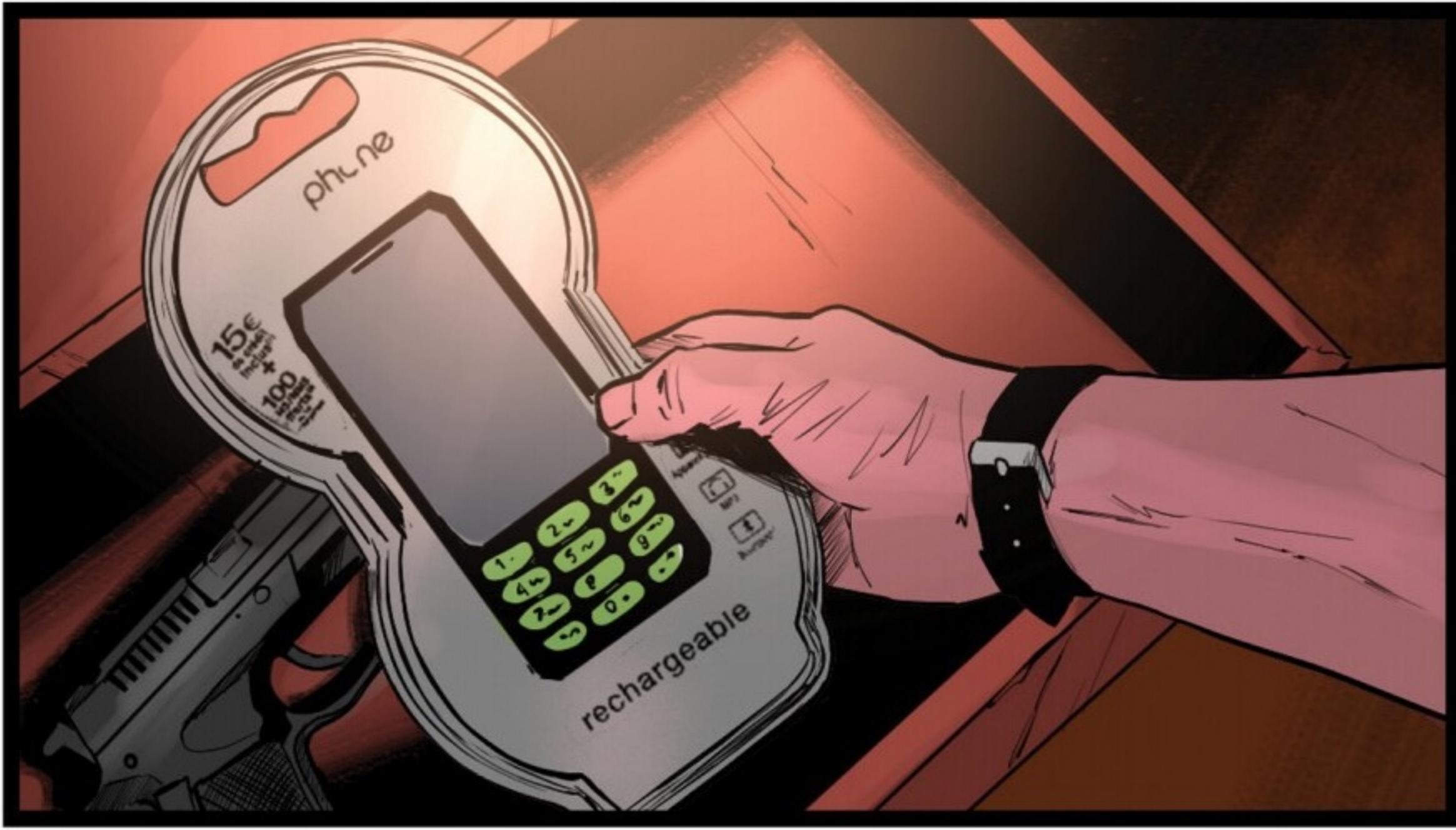
Oh. This is going to have to wait.

It can't wait.

Yes, it can.

Come on, Hanny. You shouldn't be up.





Hello?

CLICK



You were right. I'm in.



They're going ahead with it then?



Promise me the Hannahs won't be hurt.

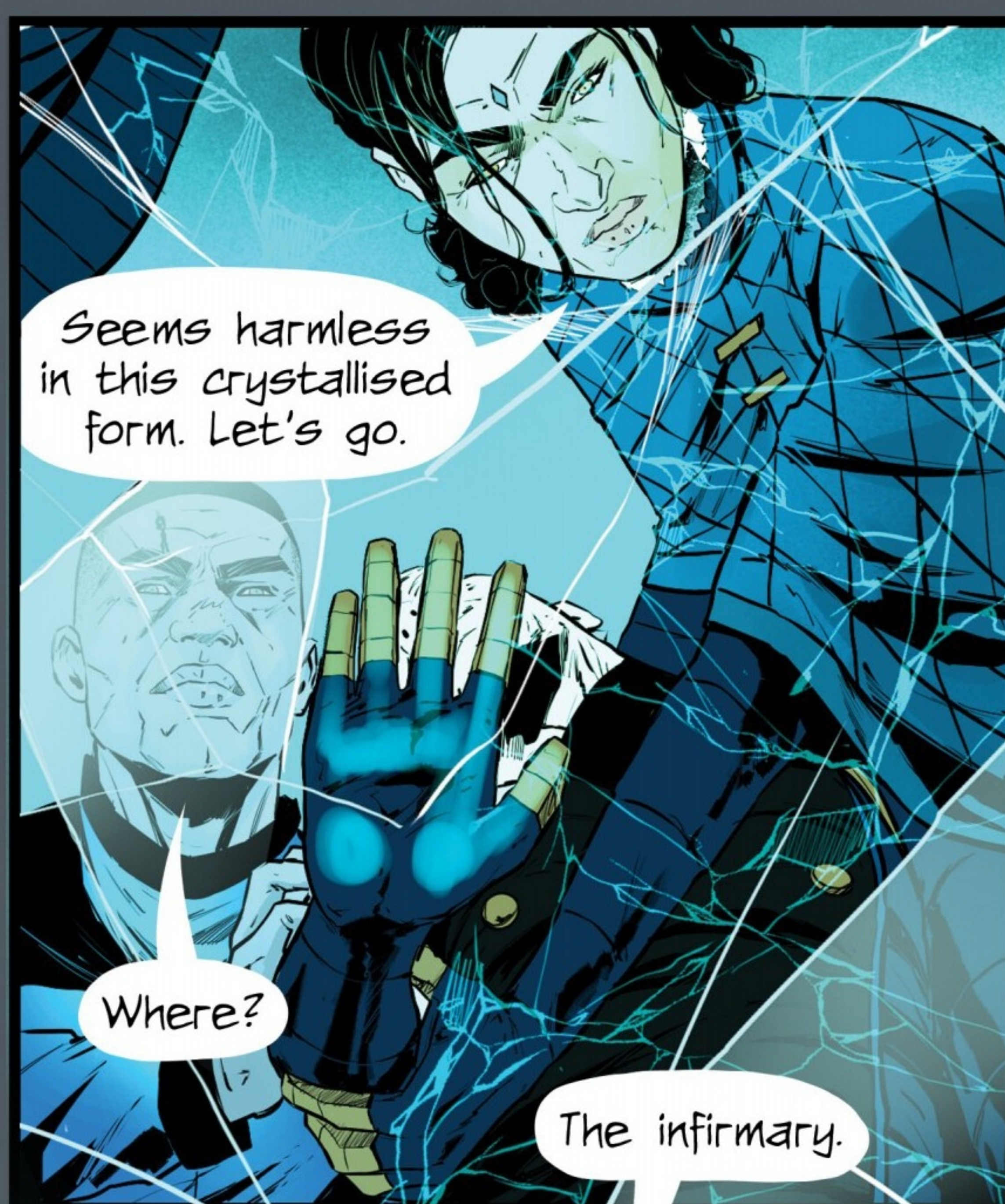
Leave that to us.

CLICK



Seems that way. Christmas.

That soon? We'll be ready.





Hannah might be dying as we speak.

There's no time to deal with them, Jerome.



Can you reach into my pocket?

It's hardly the time.



Please?

I'm doing it.



This?

Yes, put it in my hand.



What is it?

A call for help.



To whom?

Friends.

Sounds sinister.

Hidden Antarctic Base.

BREEP!
BREEP!

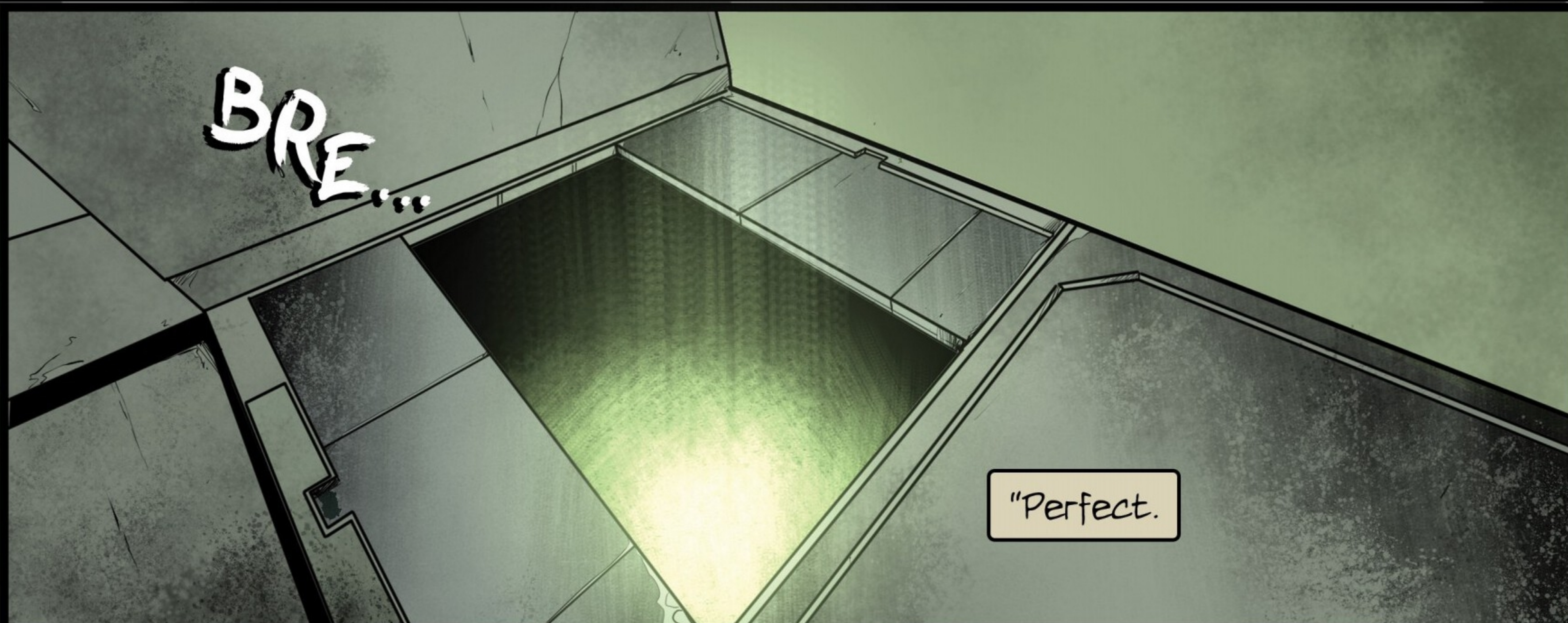


BREEP! BREEP!



"You can turn it off, now."

BRE...



"Perfect."

"Okay, team. We've done a lot of prep for this."



This is the real deal. No mistakes.

And minimal casualties.





Put her on that station.

Is she alive?



This should be able to pick up a pulse.



Well?

Yep. Not overly strong, but it's there. The material must be permeable.



Can we remove it somehow?

No idea. Besides, right now, I need your help. Follow me.

What's in there?



Oh, just experimental stuff that's not used anymore. They let me look after it.

Well, I demanded to look after it.





I need your help.

Okay.



I need you to cut me out of this sleeve.

Without painkillers?



I'll still need to use my arm after this. Please, before I change my mind.

All right.



It was a brave thing you did.

I often...

...don't think...

...things through.

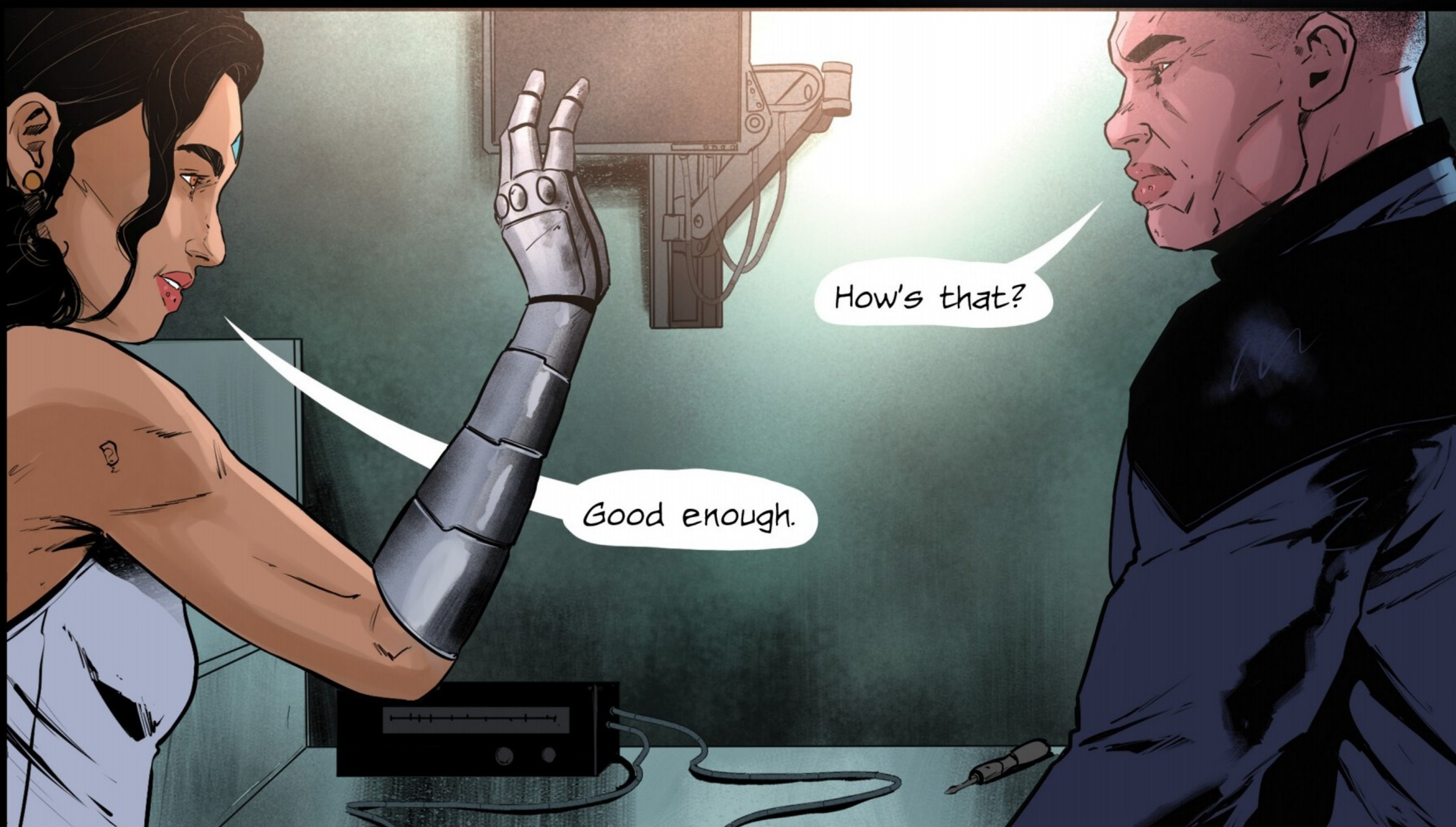
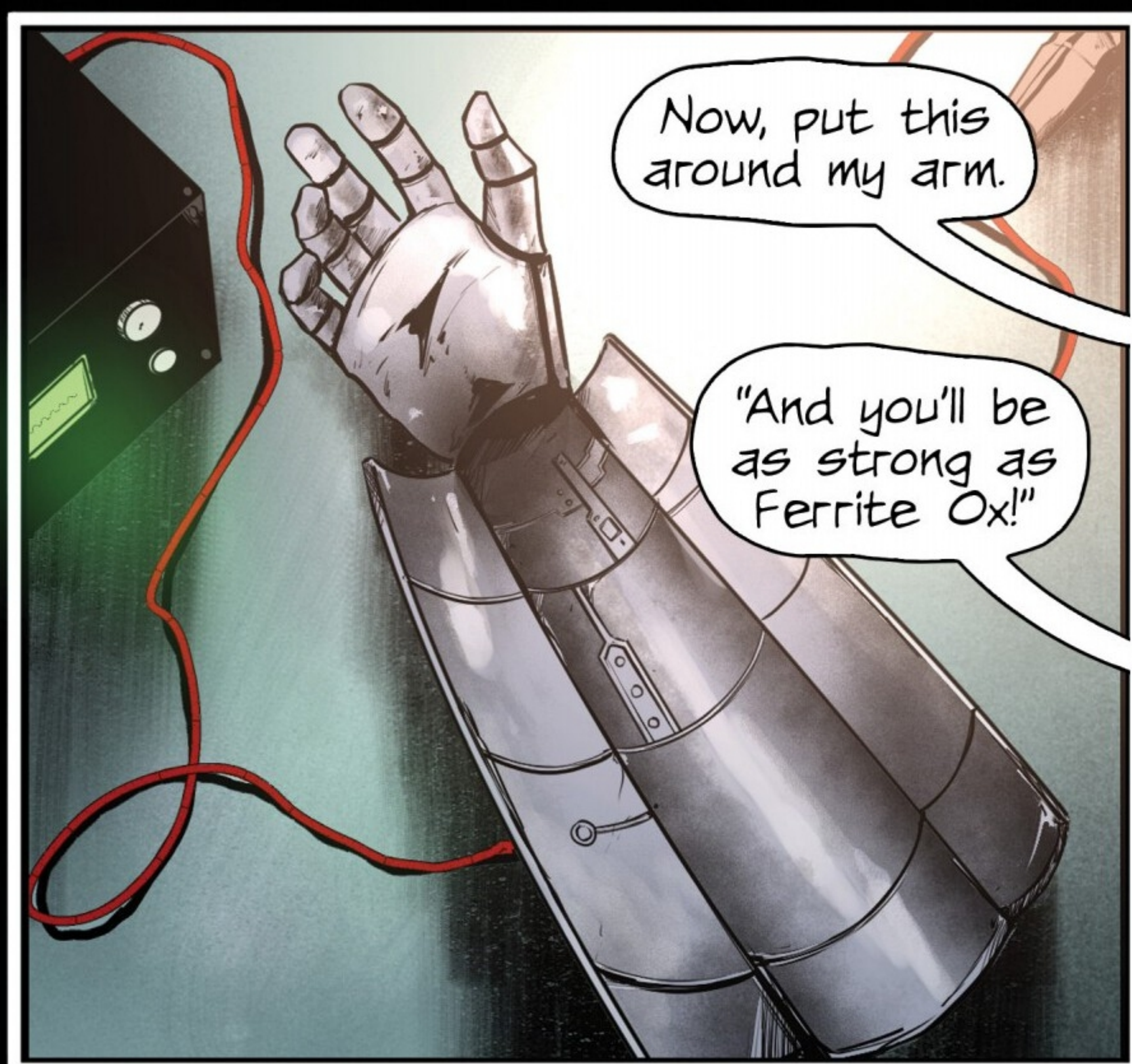


It's a weakness...

gasp

...of mine.

Nothing weak about you.

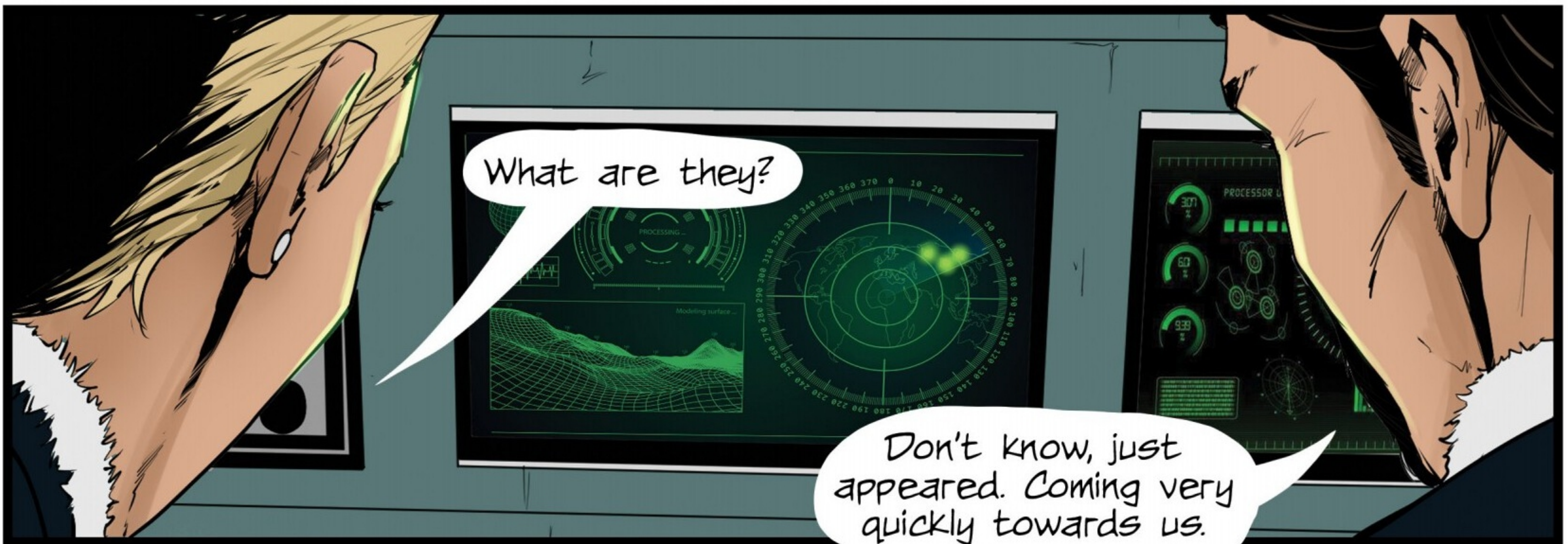


Control Room - Smith-Petersen Antarctic Base.



That's odd.

Anna, can you take a look at this?



What are they?

Don't know, just appeared. Coming very quickly towards us.



Captain Williams?

Mrs. Symonds?

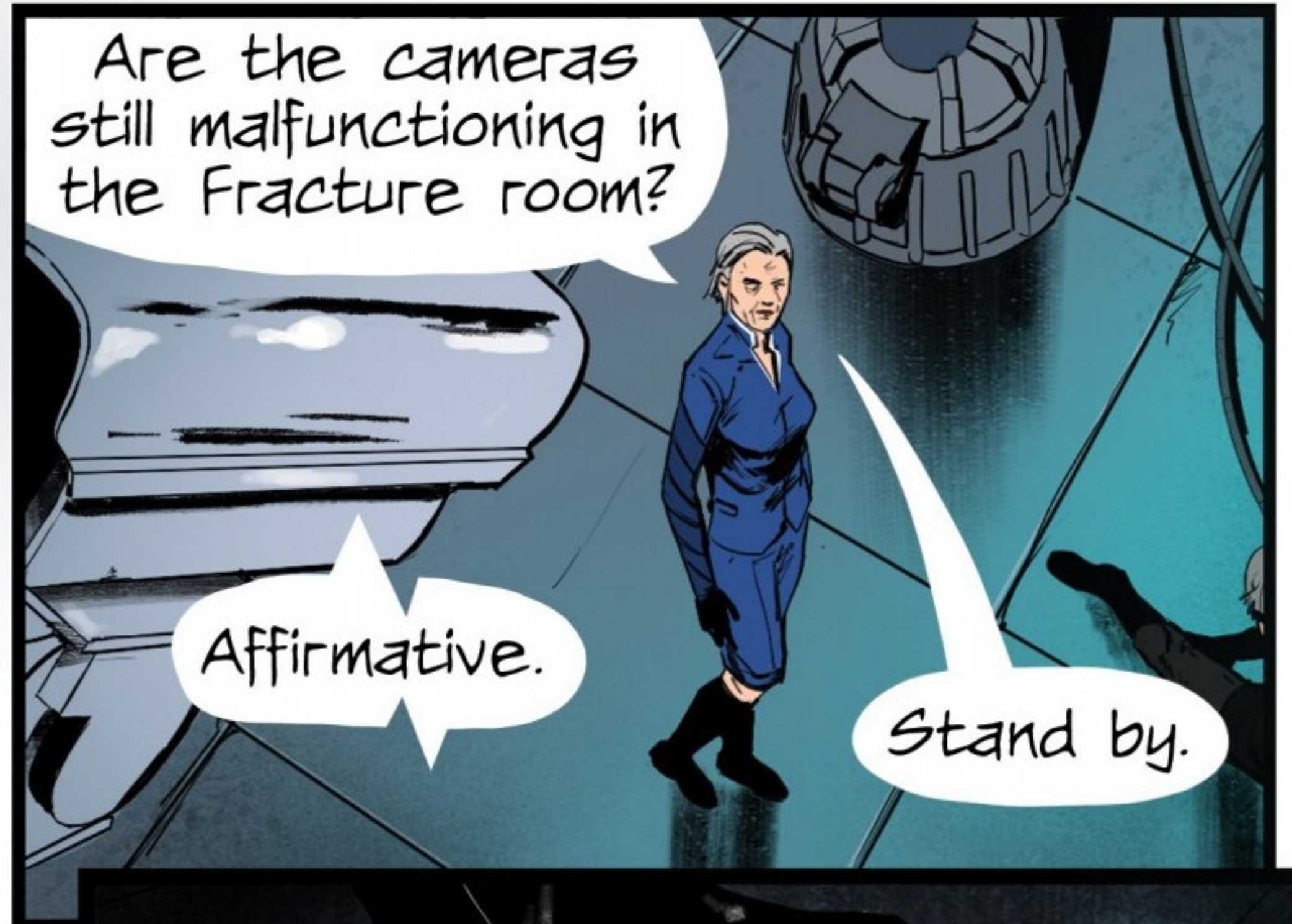
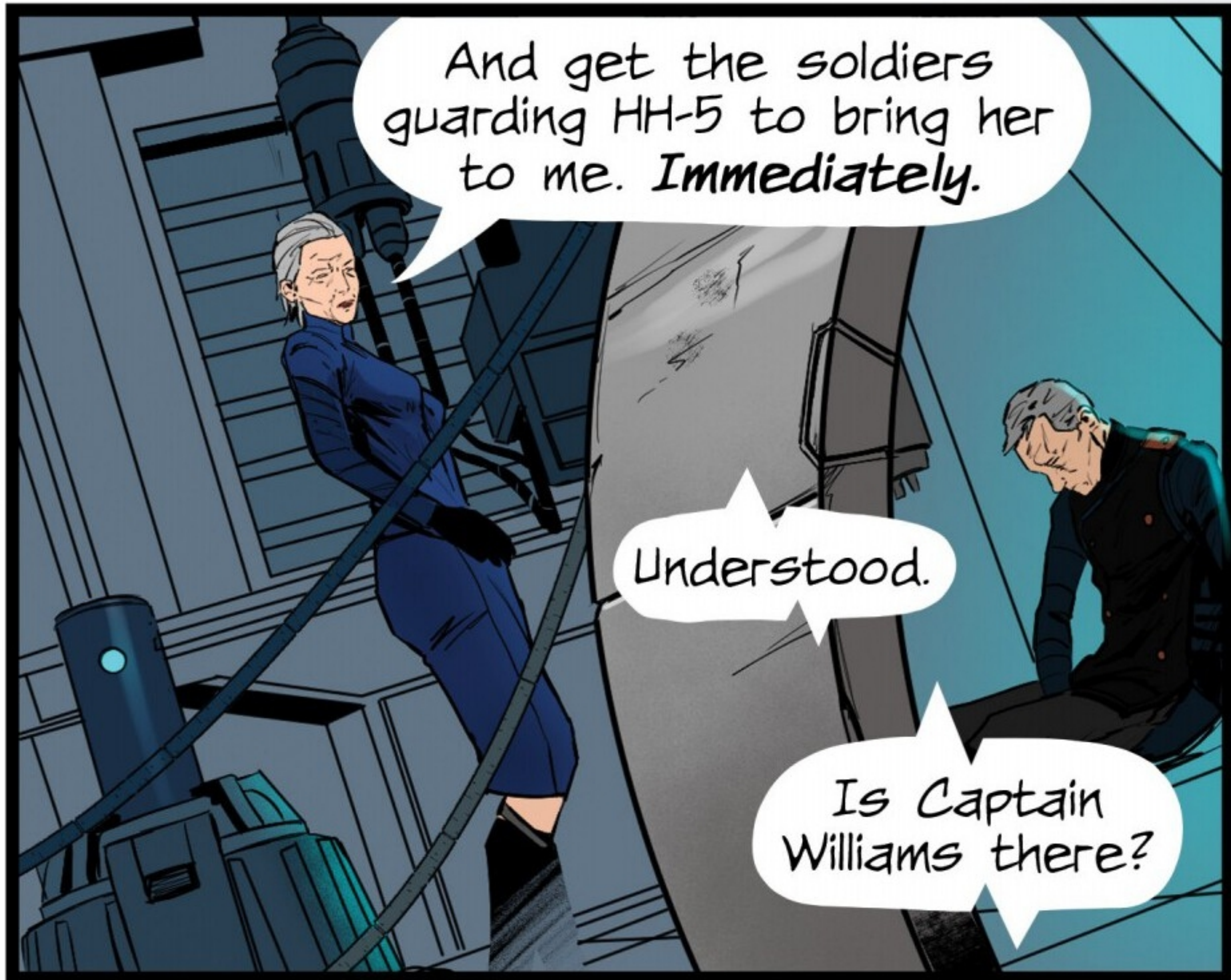
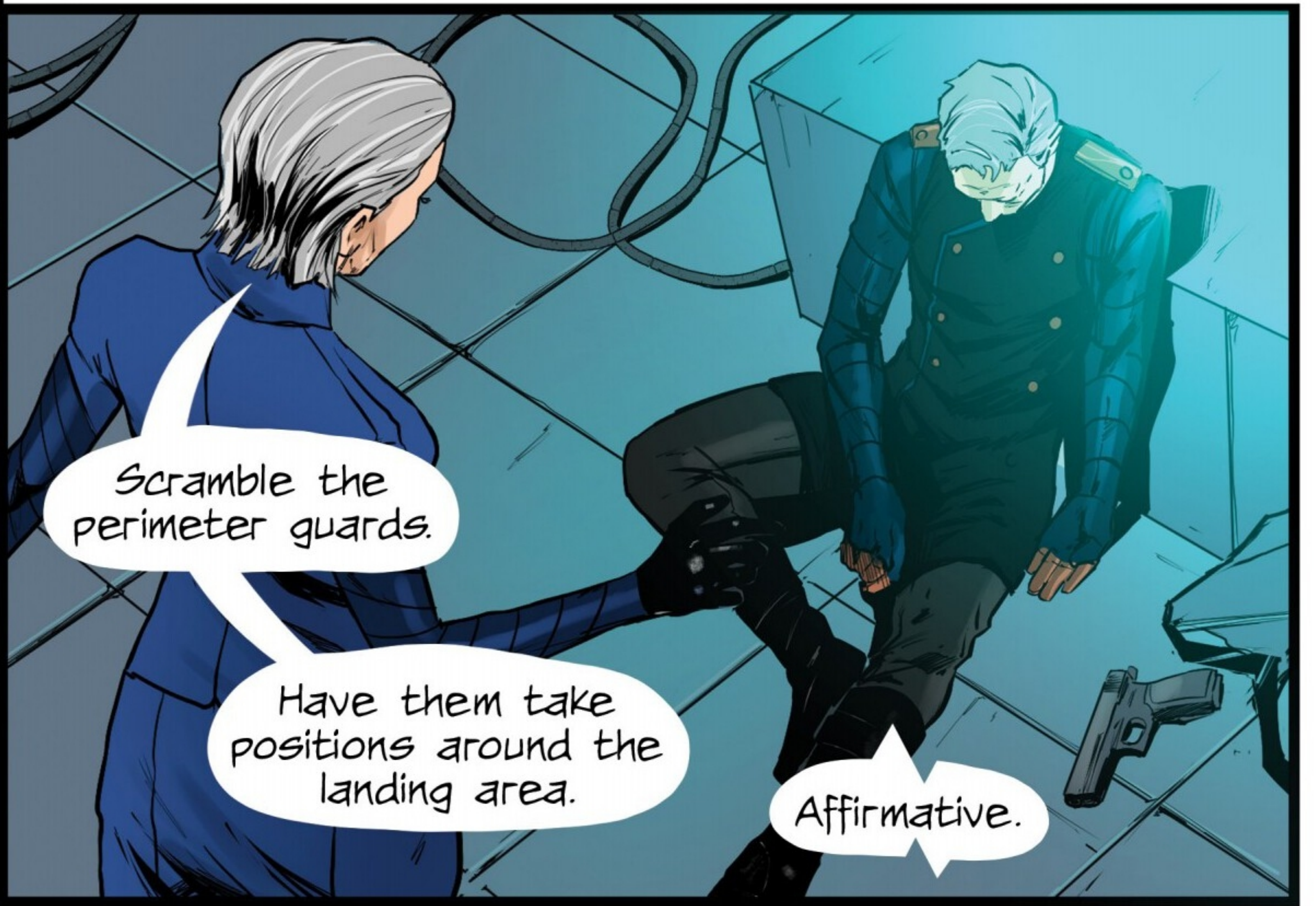


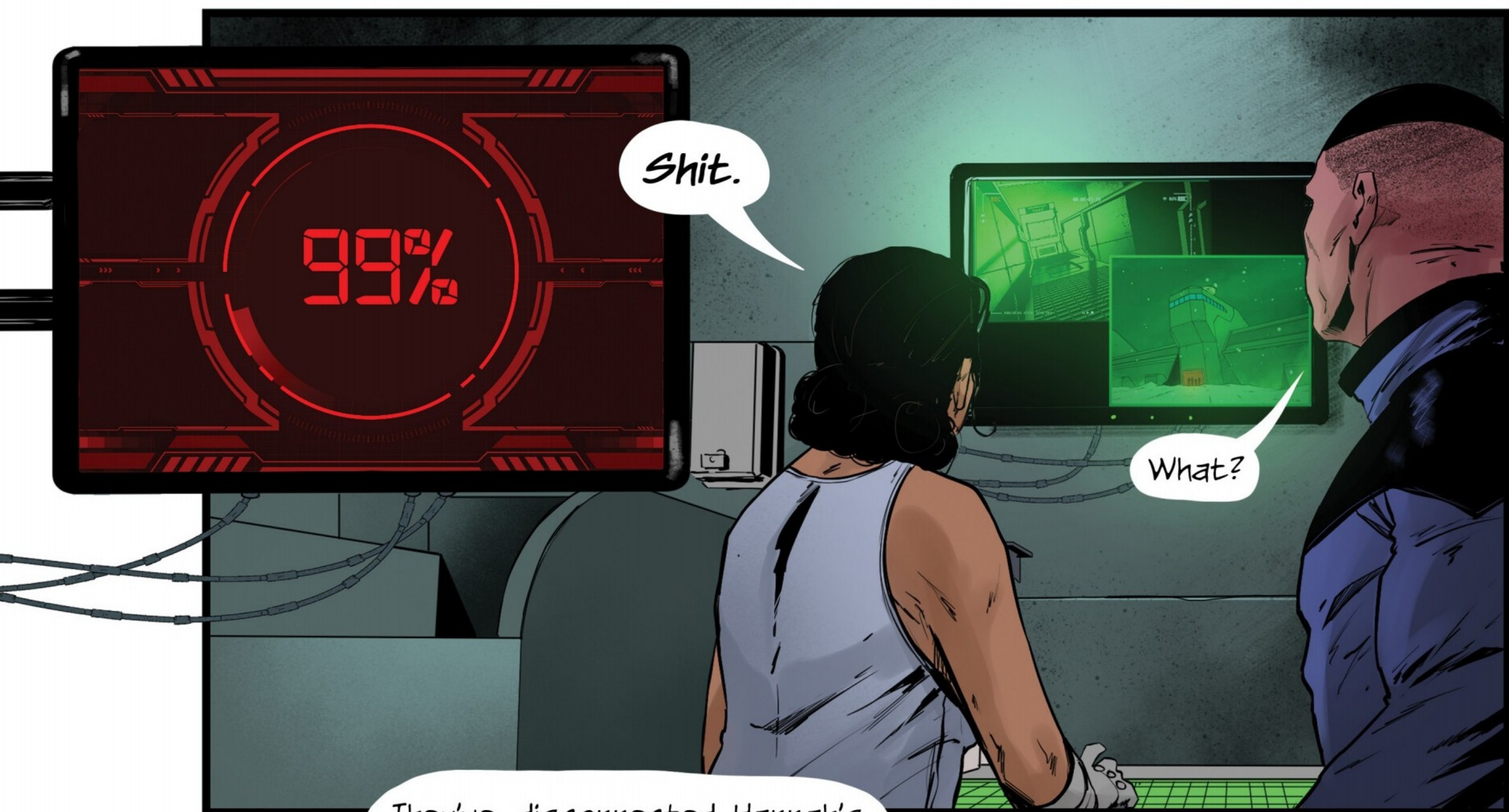
Are you there?
Can you...



...hear me?

Ungh.

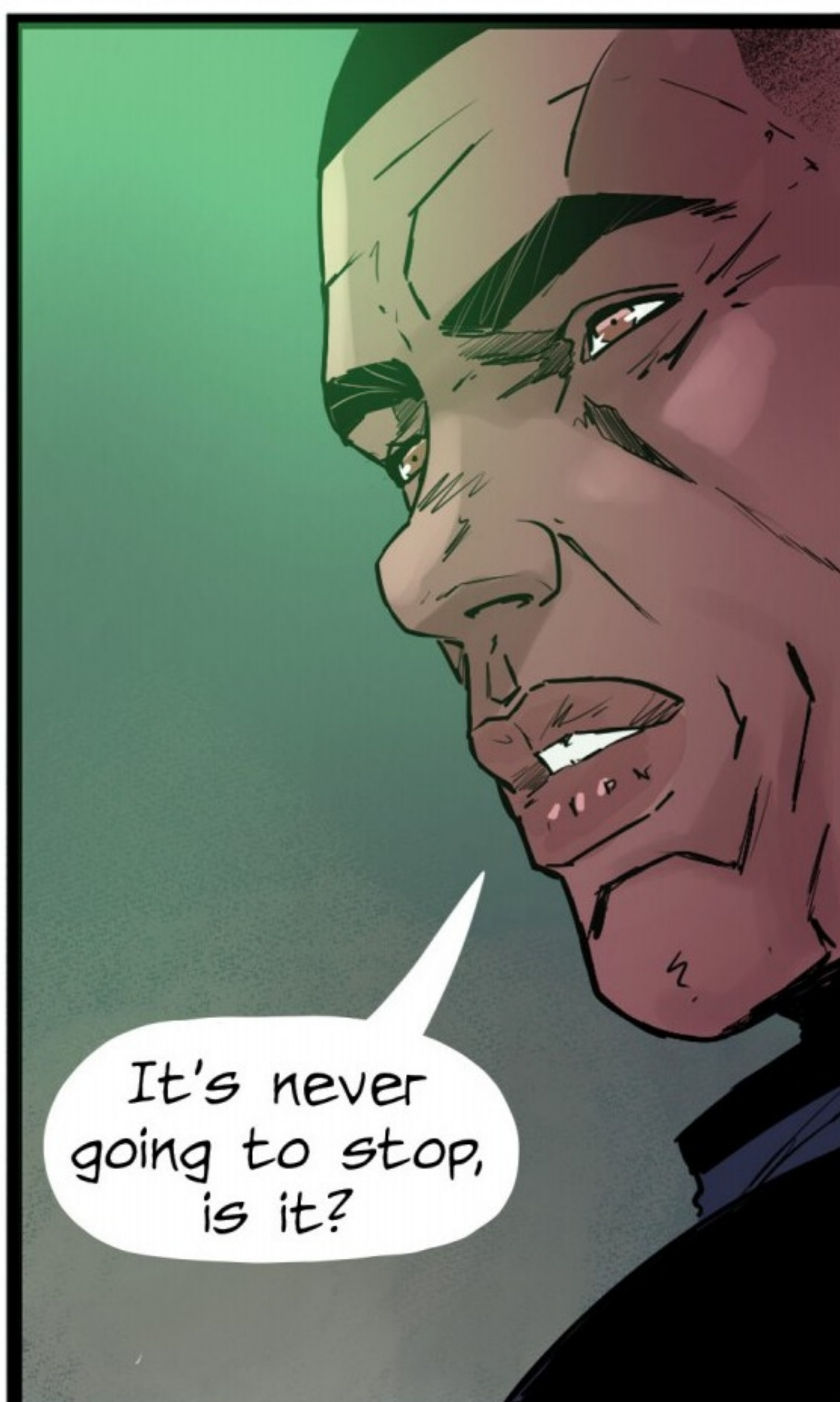


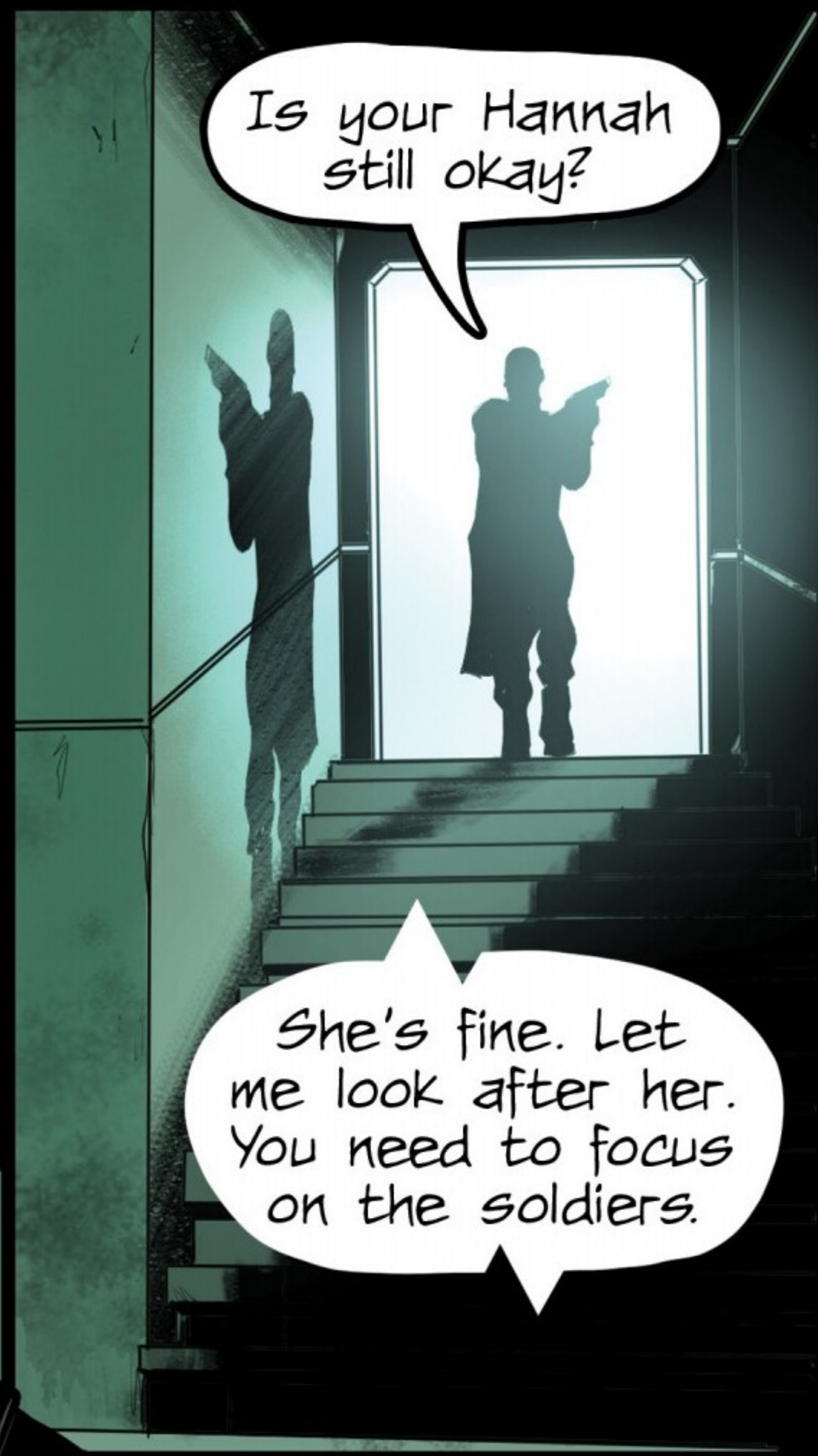


They've disconnected Hannah's containment chamber.

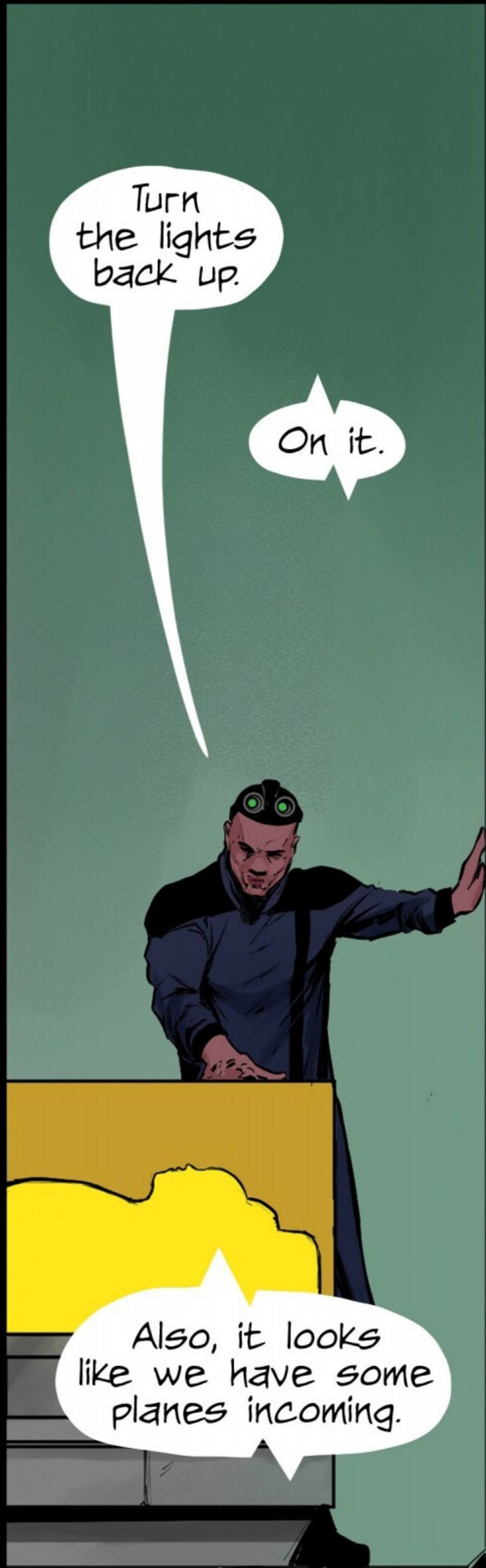


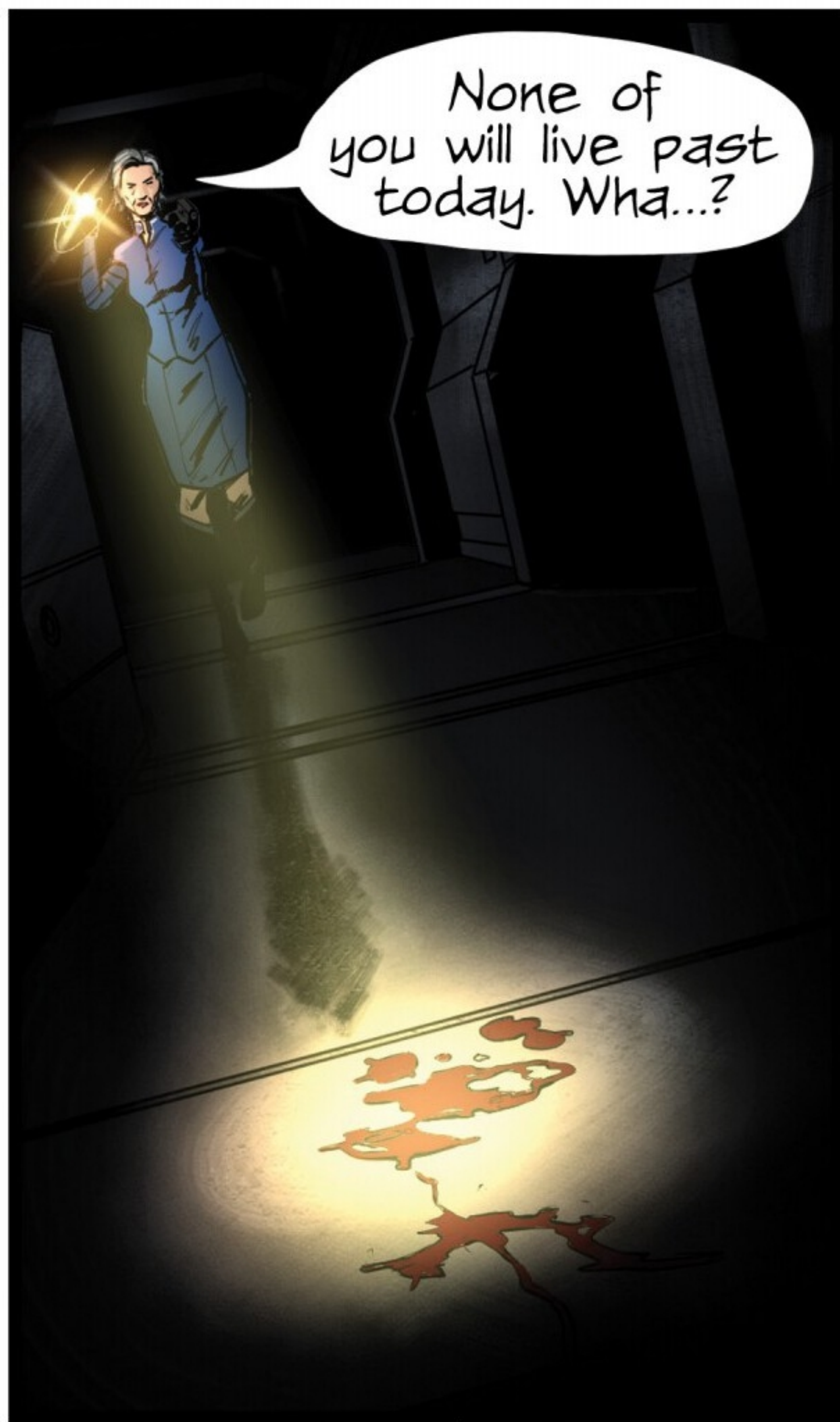
Got them. Three soldiers...



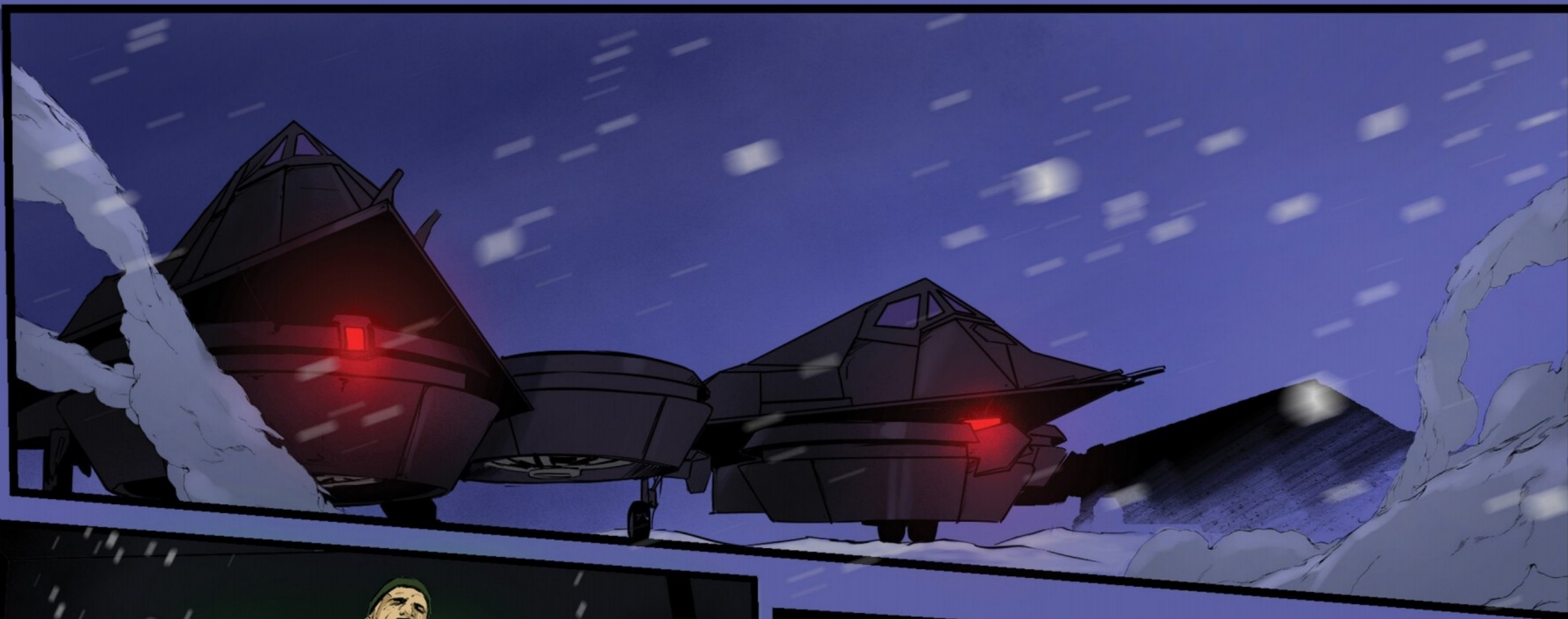












Guerrero?



No! Our fight is not with him.



Help me.

We will do what we came here for.



If you are still alive when we return, we will help you.



Stay there.
I'm coming to
get you.

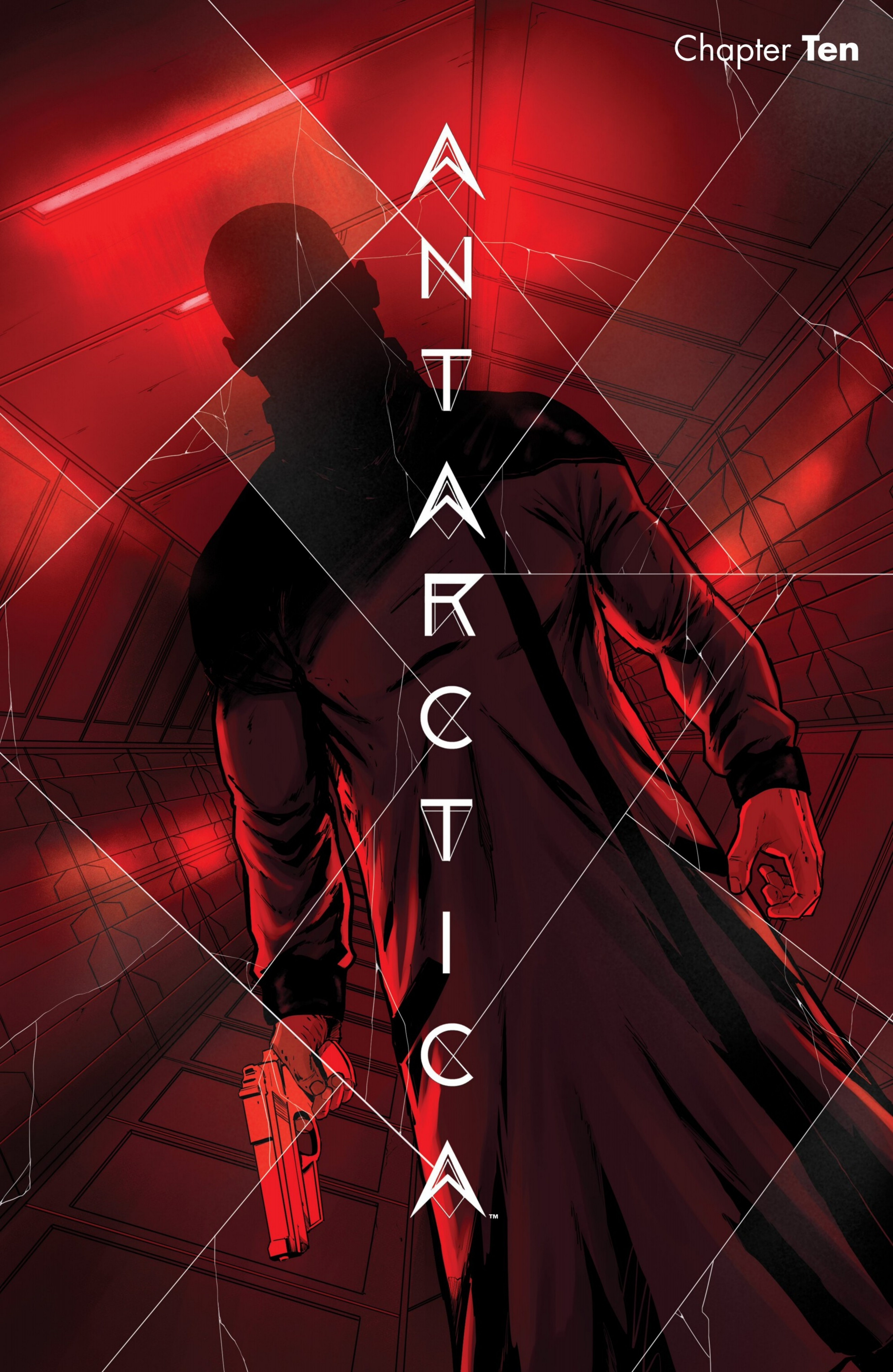
Don't you die
on me, Jerome.

Please.



A
N
T
A
R
C
T
I
C
A

TM





N

T



R

C

T

I

C



TM





I don't understand.

Where am I now?

...IP!

PLIP!



What is...

PL



...happening?

...IP!



PL

No! Not again!







Do not panic.
We do not want
bloodshed.



We are here
to save the
children. That is
all we want.

That's it.
Surrender, and
no one will be
harmful.



What is
it, Ayers?

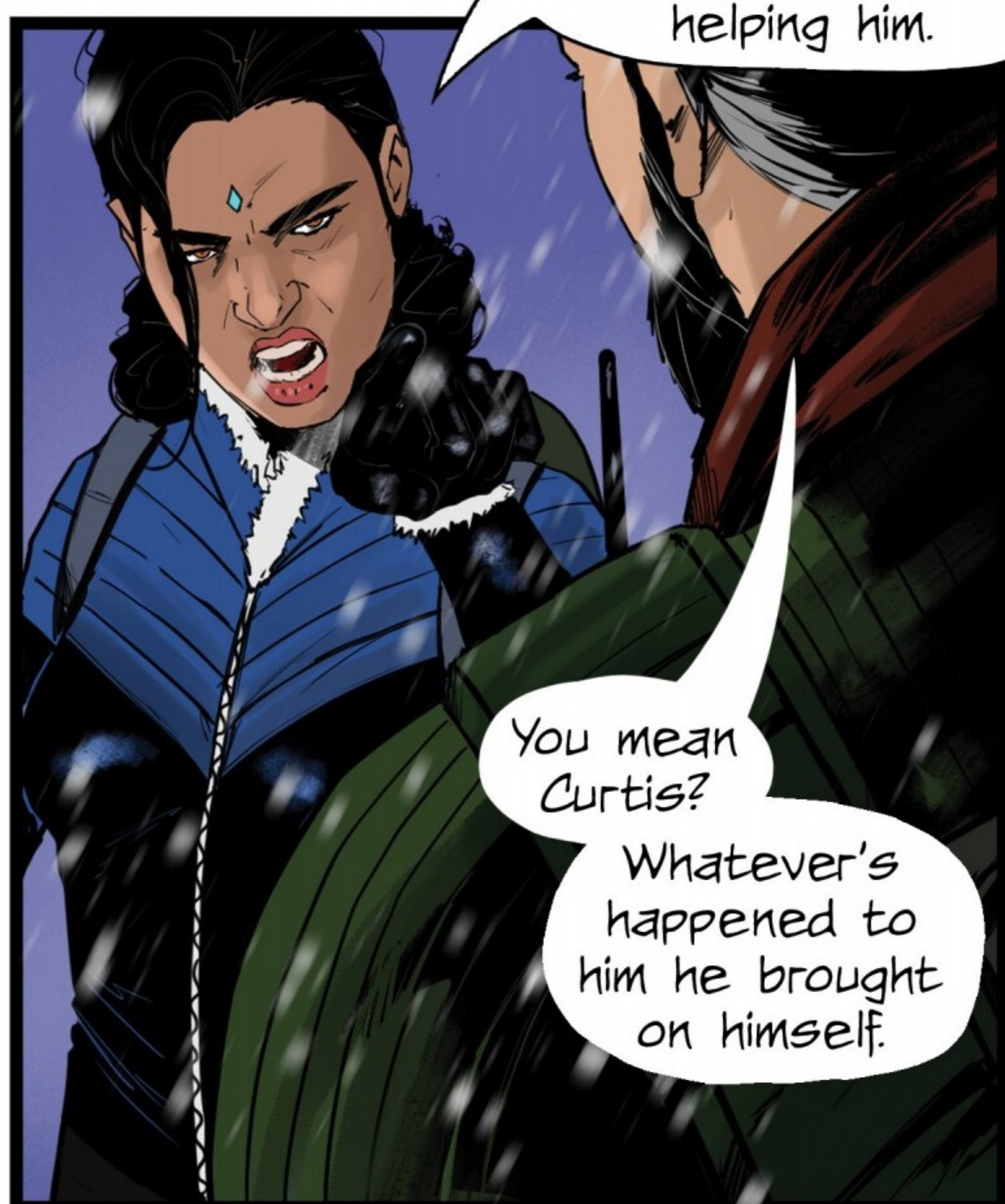
Someone's
coming in
a hurry.

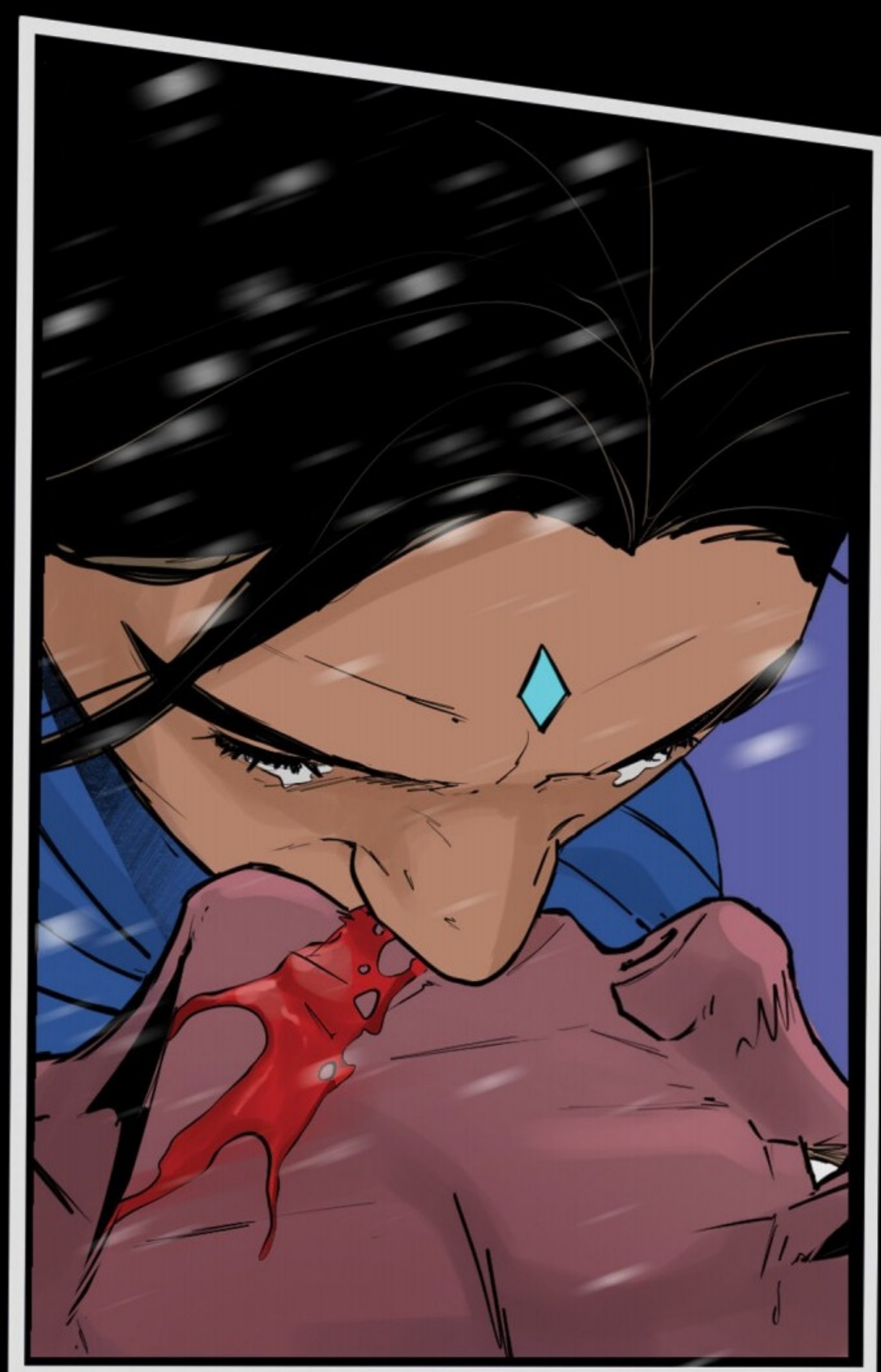
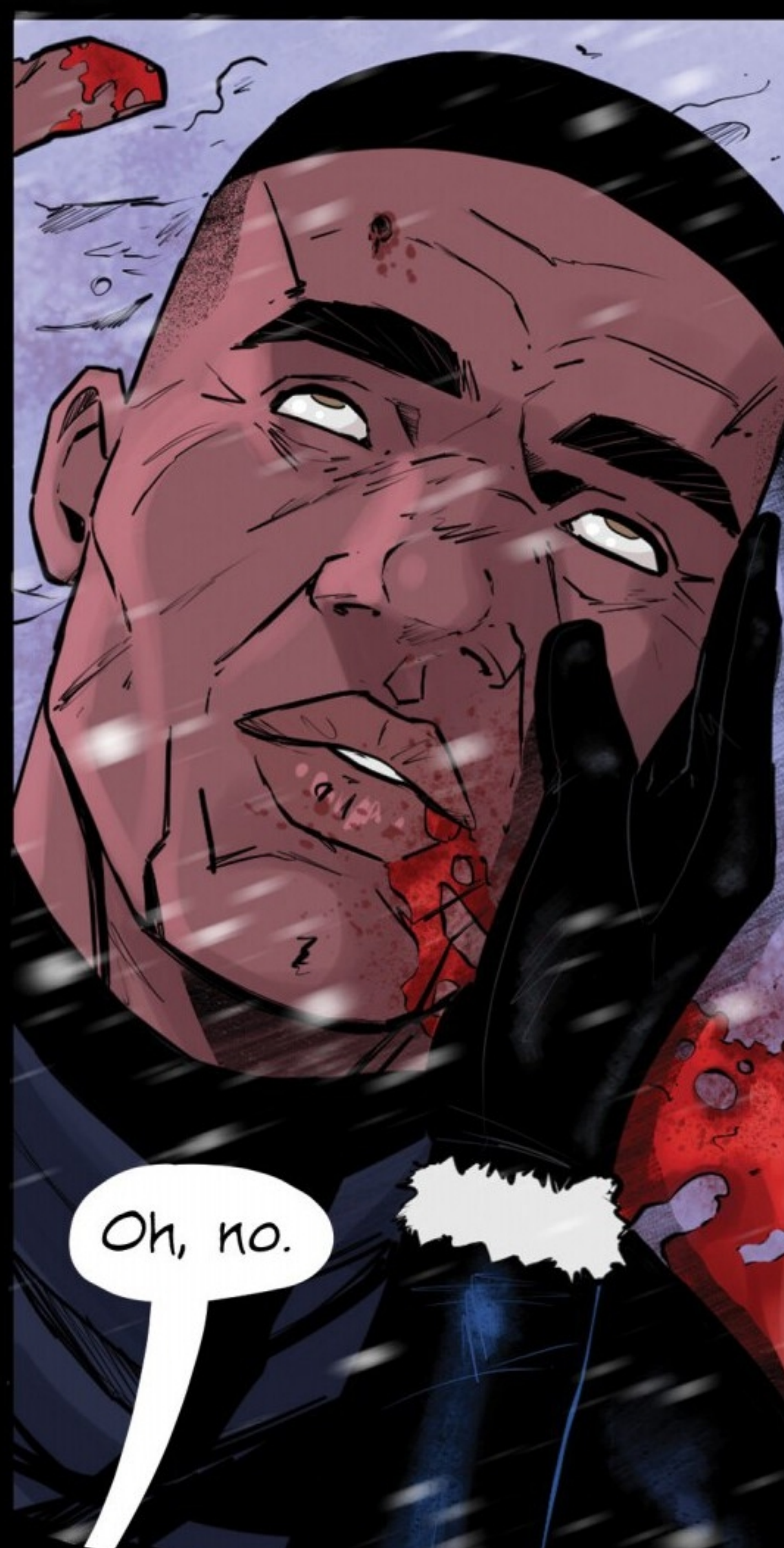


No shooting
till I say so.



Stay where
you are.







Is he all right?

I'm trying, Hannah.

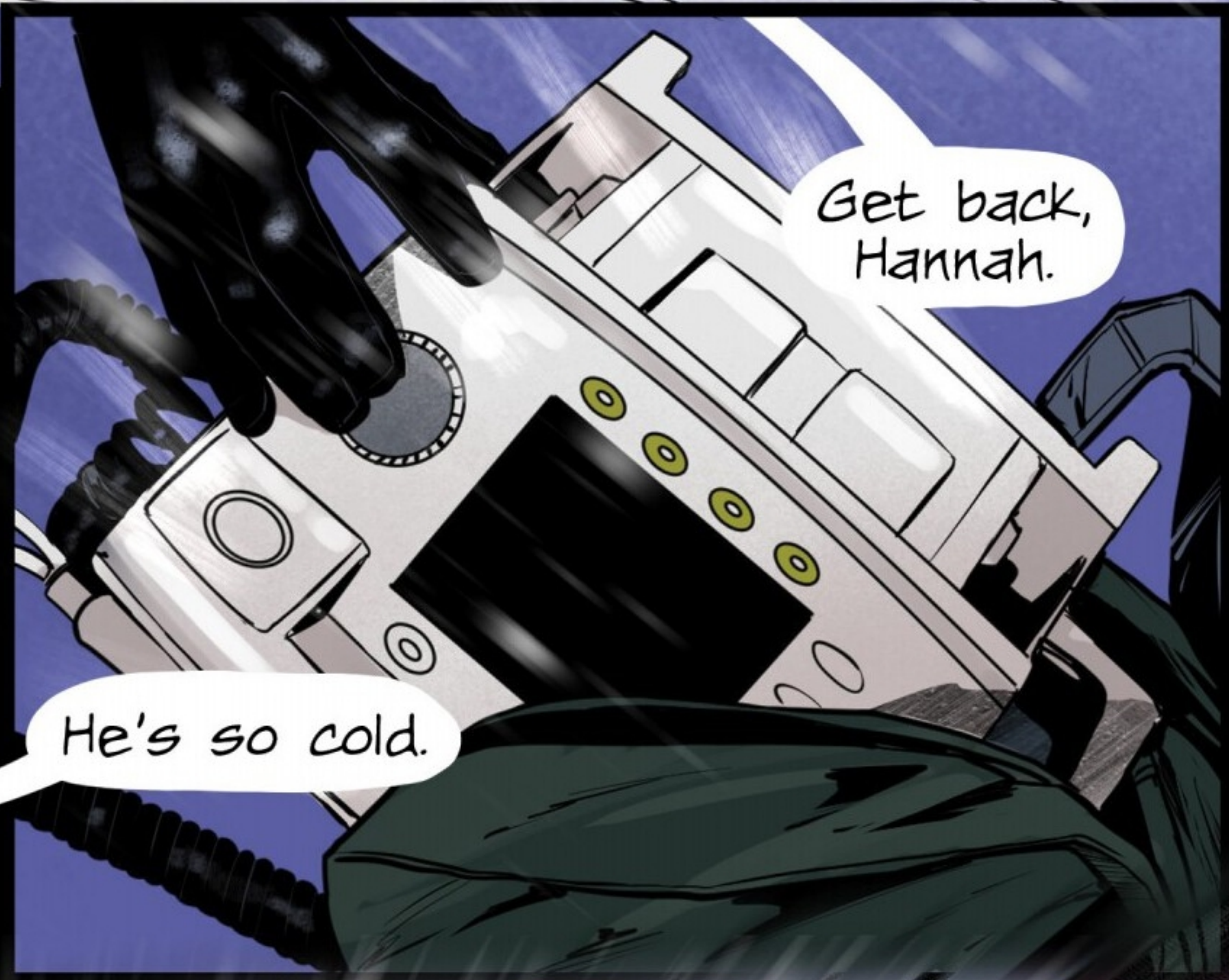


Trying what?

I'm trying to save him.



He's... he's alive, isn't he?



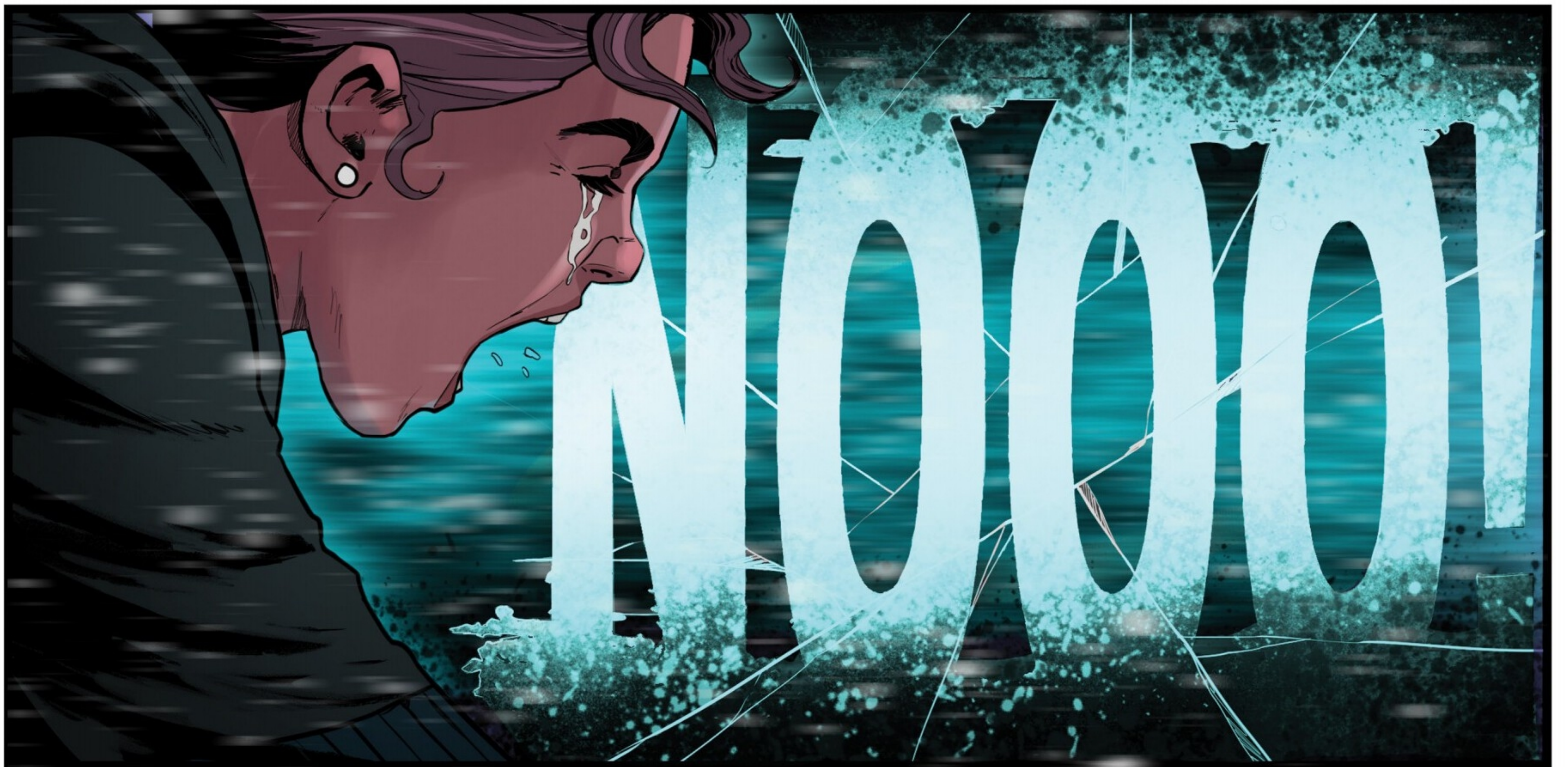
Get back, Hannah.

He's so cold.



THUMP!

Daddy!





What is that?



Oh, my gods.

What's it doing?



I think it's trying to help him.



Dr Gohel, say a prayer with me.

A prayer?

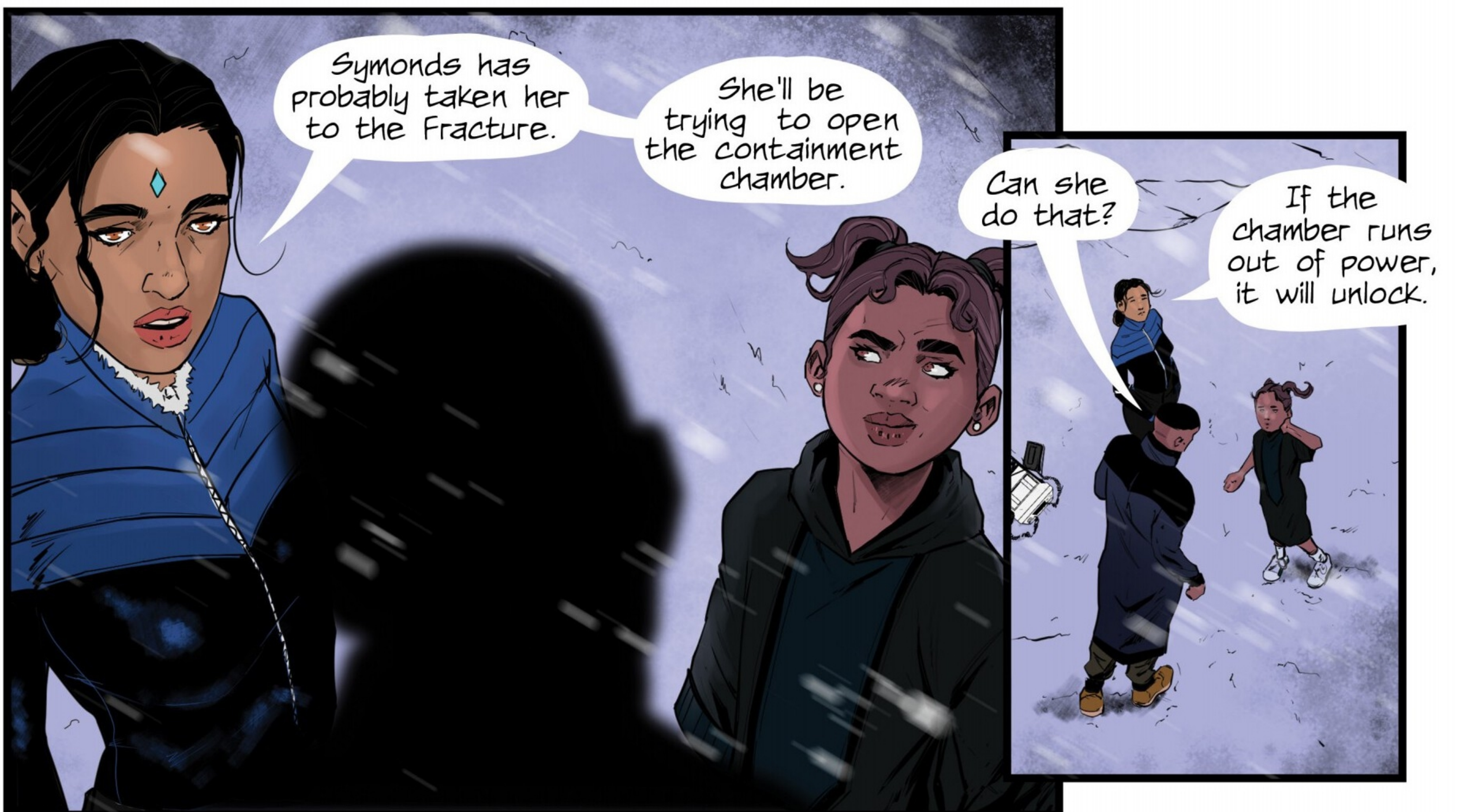


Yes, a silent one. For Daddy.

Of course.









Come on. Come on.



I can hear them coming.



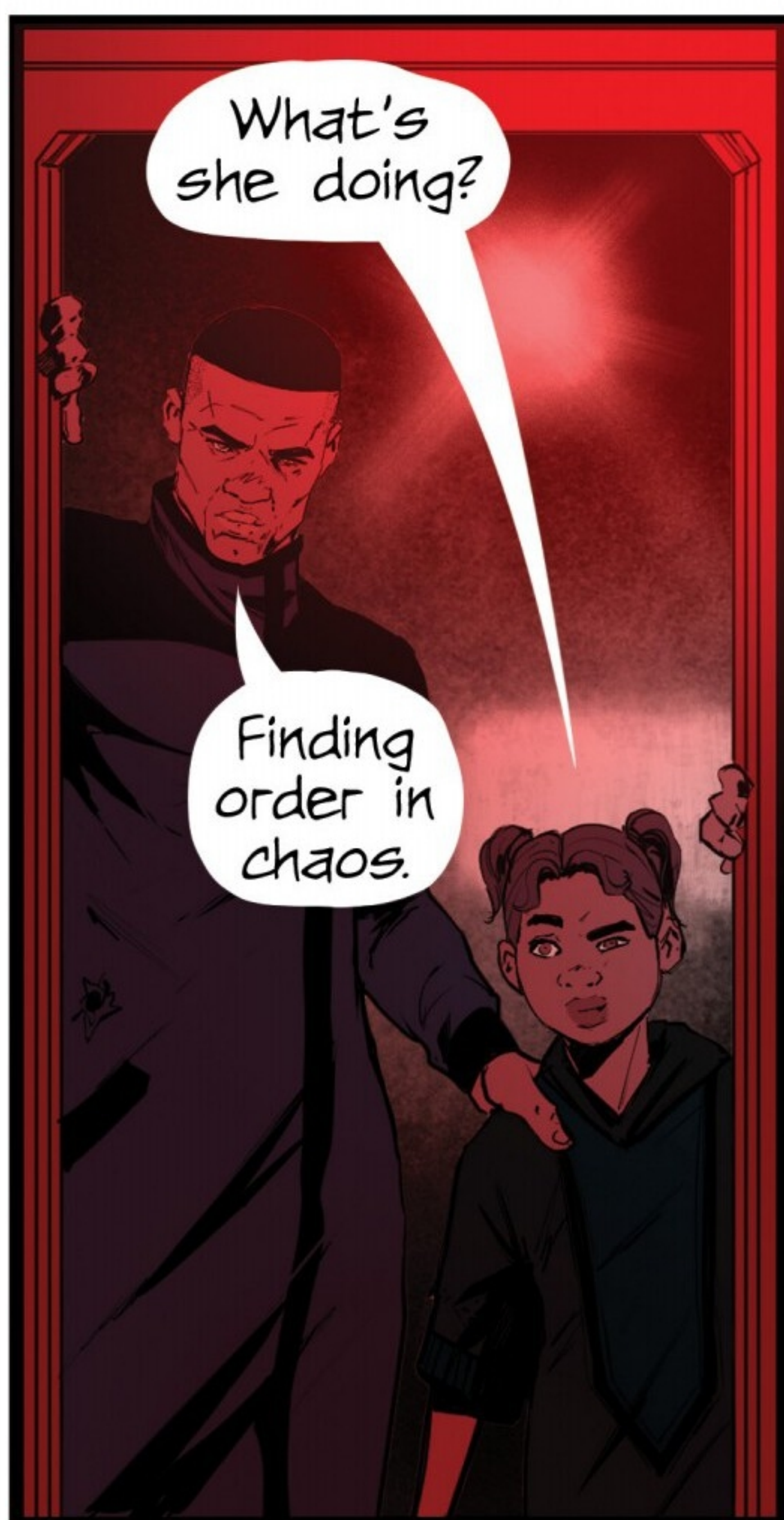
Something's wrong with it.



Much good it will do them.



The lift's been tampered with. We'll have to climb down.





Floor X.

What's on floor X?

No one knows.



No one?

Someone must know, but no one goes there, and there are no cameras.



Rumour has it something major went down there years ago.

They sealed it tight.

Are we sure we want to go there?

I've seen some plans.

There's a way through to the Fracture on the floor.



These goggles are coooooo!

Here we are. That wasn't so hard.

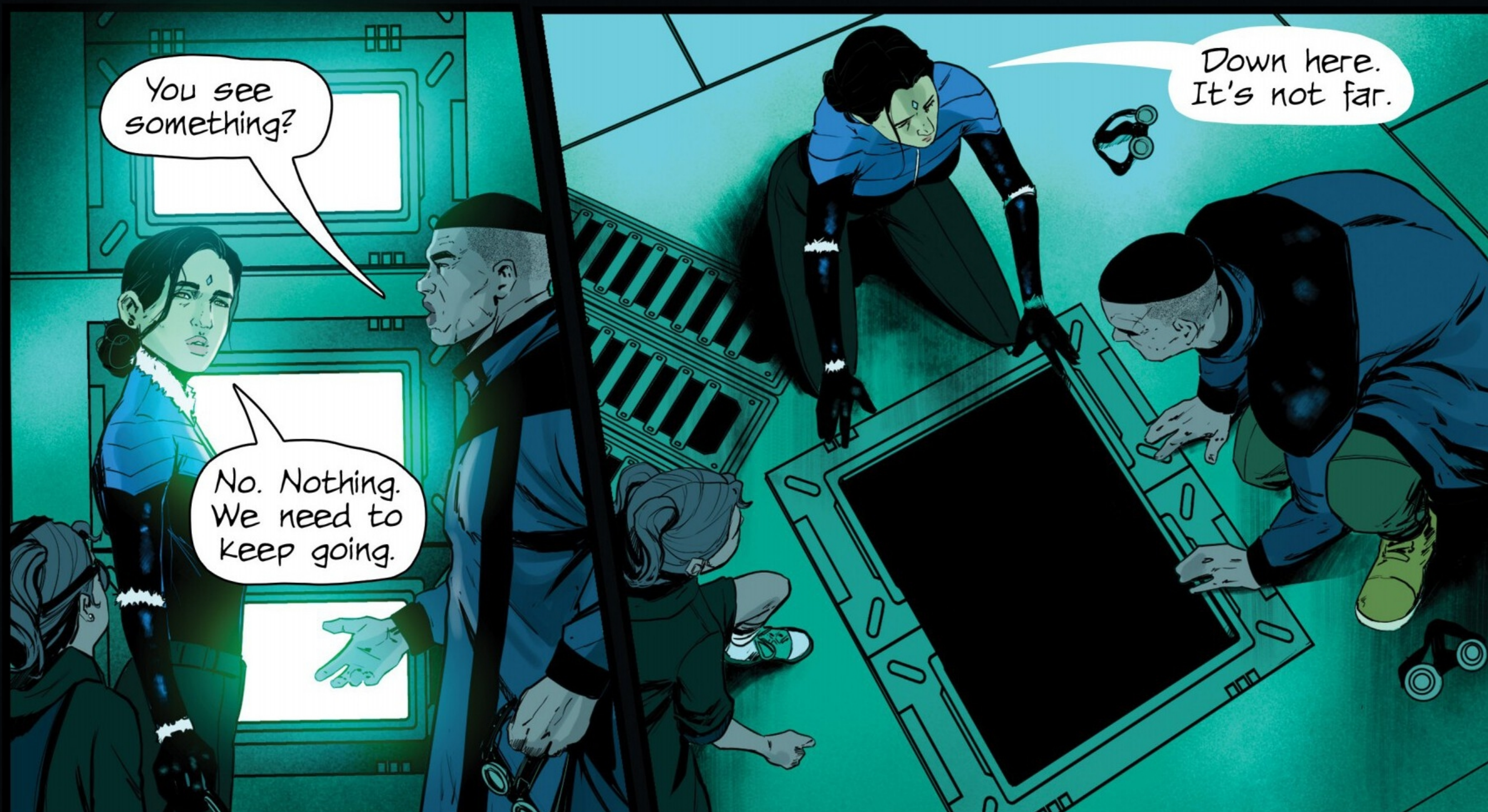
Mind your eyes.



By the gods.

What are they?

Let's just find the way out of here.





Hold it right there.



CONTAINMENT CHAMBER UNLOCKED.



No.

BANG!



I don't know who you are, but it doesn't matter.



Leave...

the girls...

alone.



Why?

STOP!



Just leave her alone. No one needs to get injured.

Don't be stupid, Curtis. She's my insurance.



Where are you going? The Fracture will kill you.



We all saw what happened to the other Hannah.

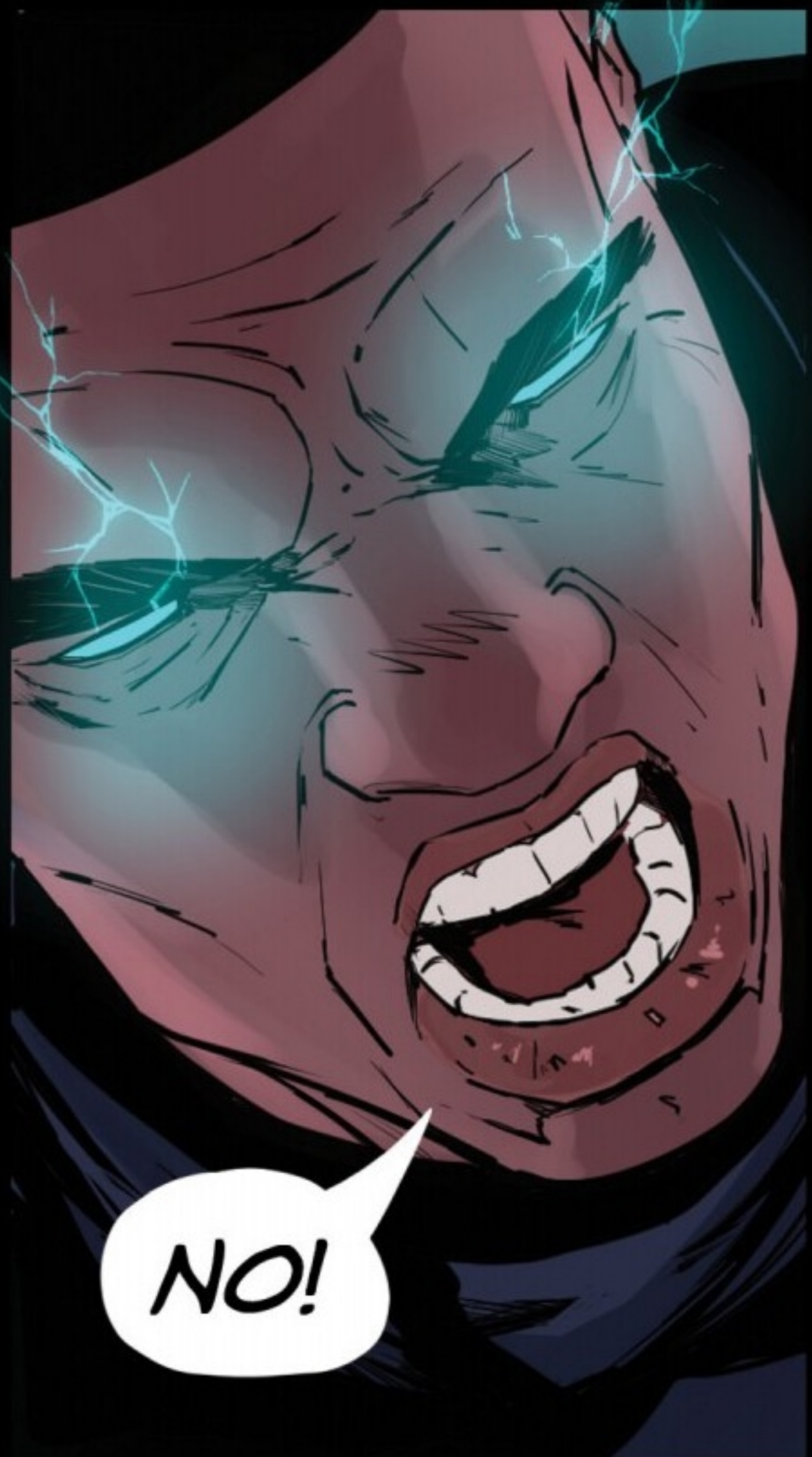
It likes them, whatever it is.



That's no guarantee. Just look what it did to my arm.



Hm. You're right...







I think I caught the bullet.

Ferrite Ox would be impressed.



Is she okay?

Yes, she's still alive.



More than can be said for her.

She wasn't a good person.



No, she wasn't.



She really, really, wasn't.



Later.

All good?

Yeah. The containment chamber is fully charged.

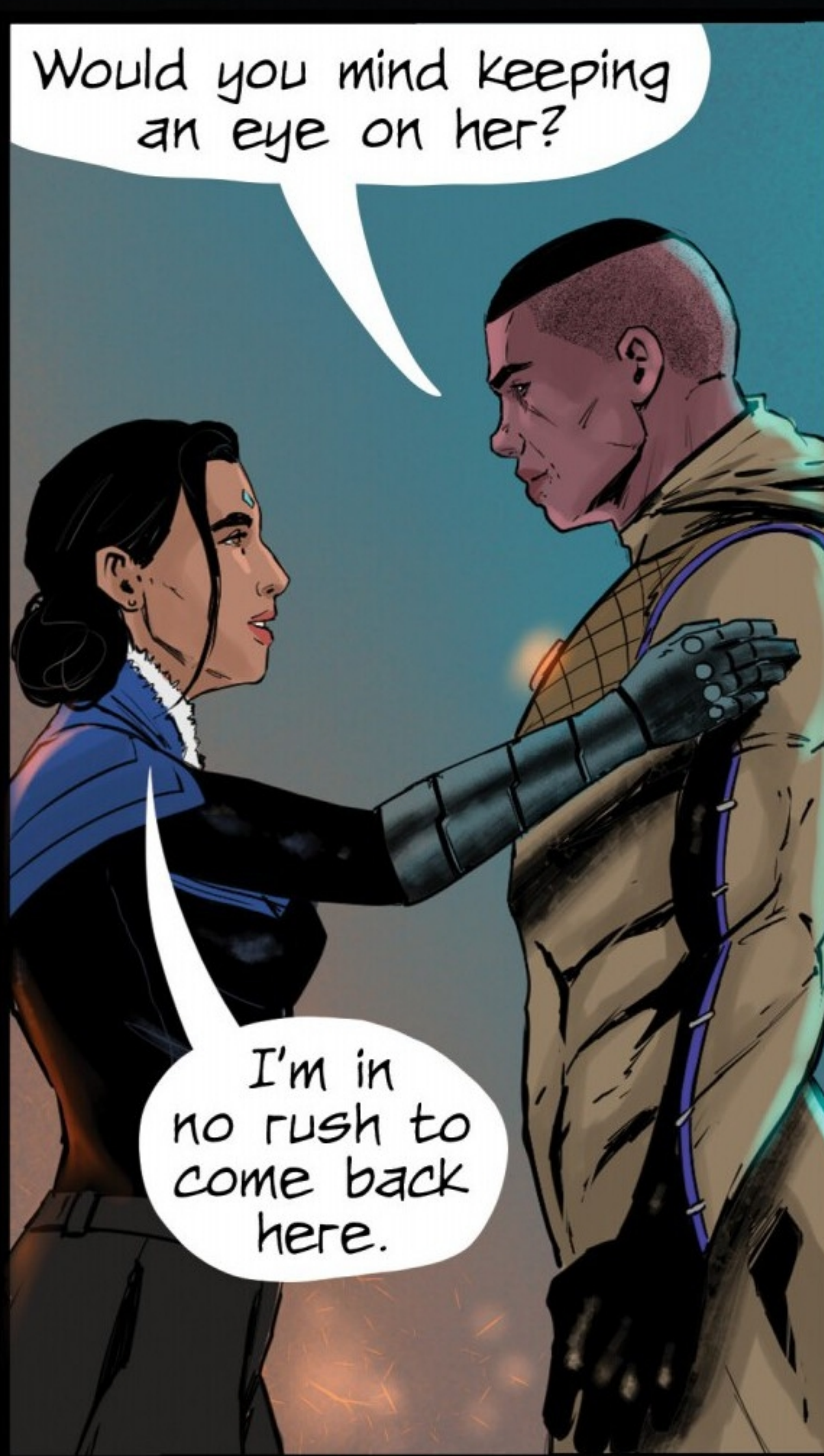
You shouldn't have any issues going back through.



How's she doing?

She's been through a lot today.

It's going to take her time to process it.



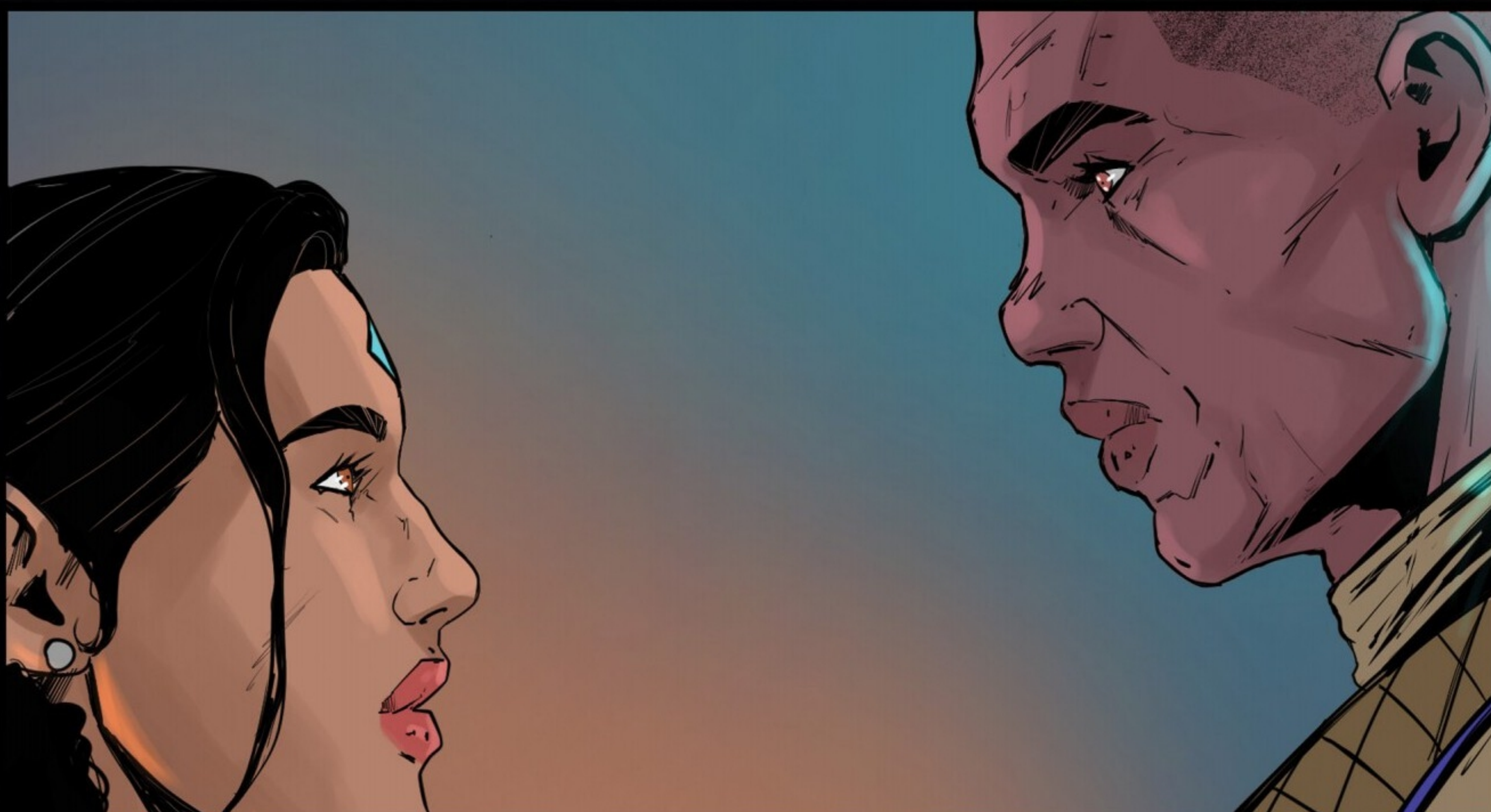
Would you mind keeping an eye on her?

I'm in no rush to come back here.



Remember, there's a reason why it's you, Jerome.

So, you keep saying.



We're ready to take you up.

Very well.

Make sure Guerrero gets you back safely.





ANTARCTICA

Variants and Art Gallery

On the following pages...

Issue #6 cover B by **Lyndon White**

Issue #7 Cover B by **C.P. Smith**

Issue #8 cover B by **Netho Diaz** and **Thaissa Diaz**

Issue #9 cover B by **Afua Richardson**

Issue #10 cover B by **Dani** and **Brad Simpson**

Volume 2 promotional art by **Willi Roberts**





CP. Smith23



Thelkord
+
JAGOSH
Thaisa
Diaz - 23



AFA



DANI
2023.



DANI
2023.



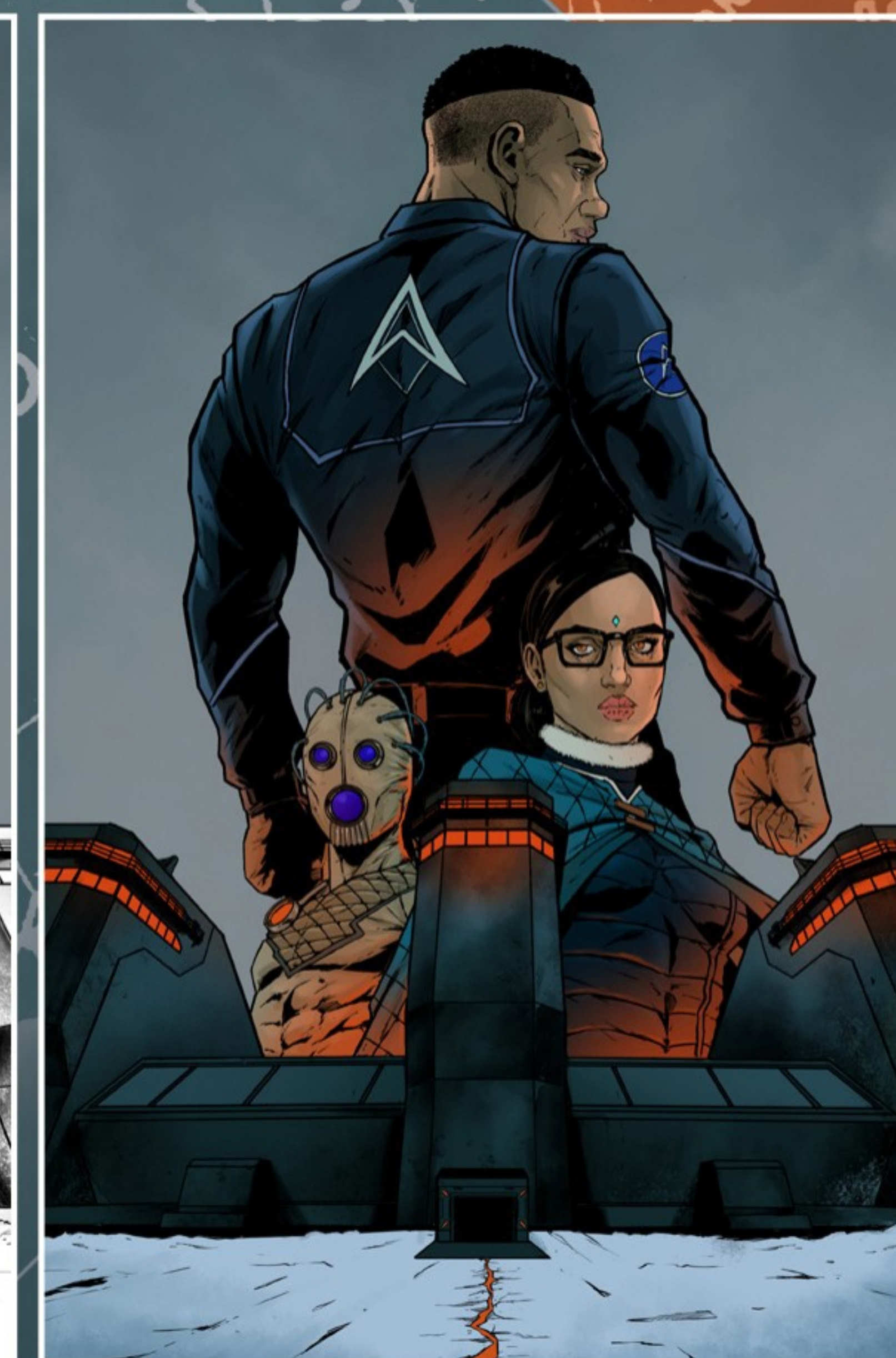
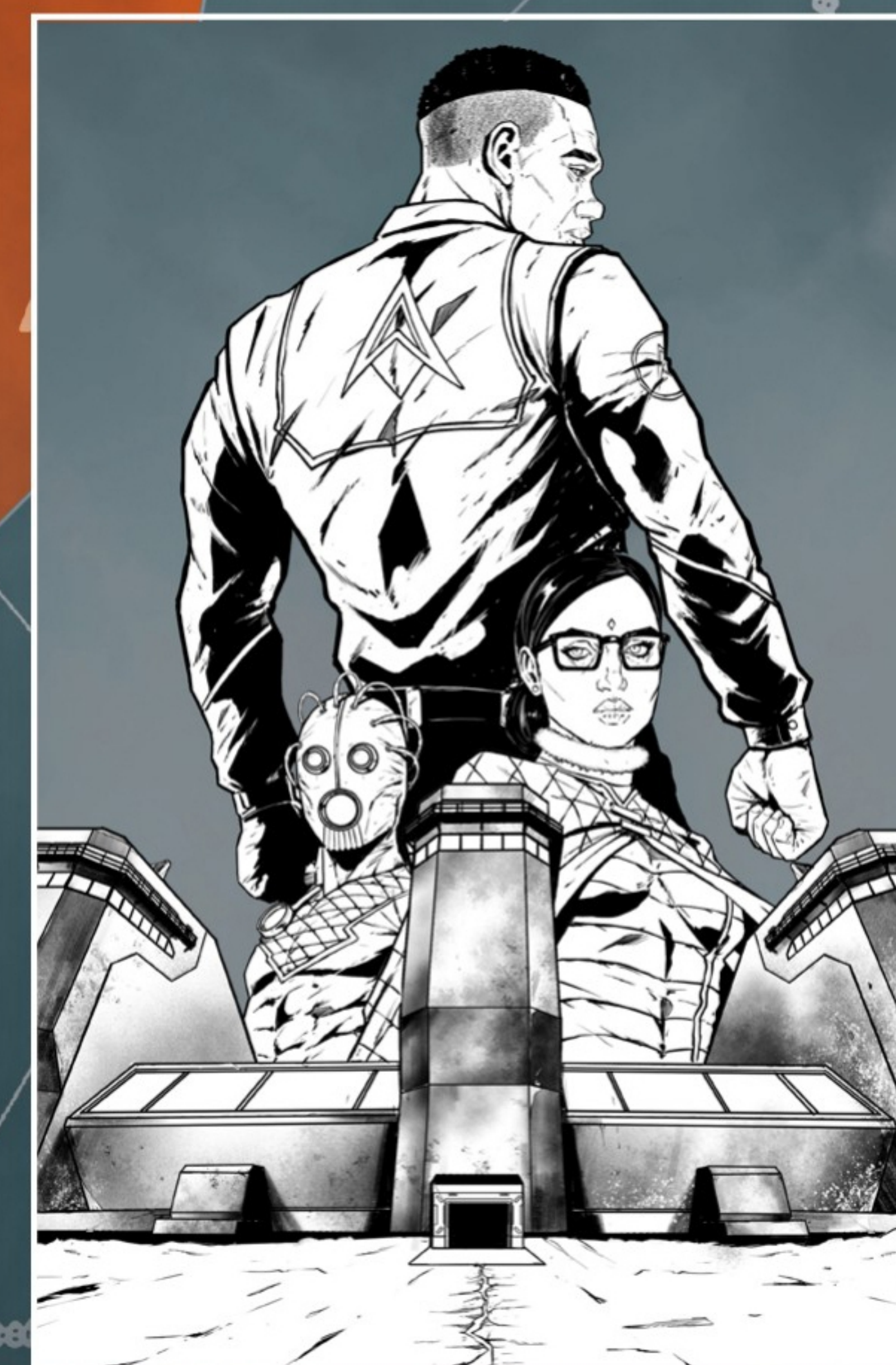
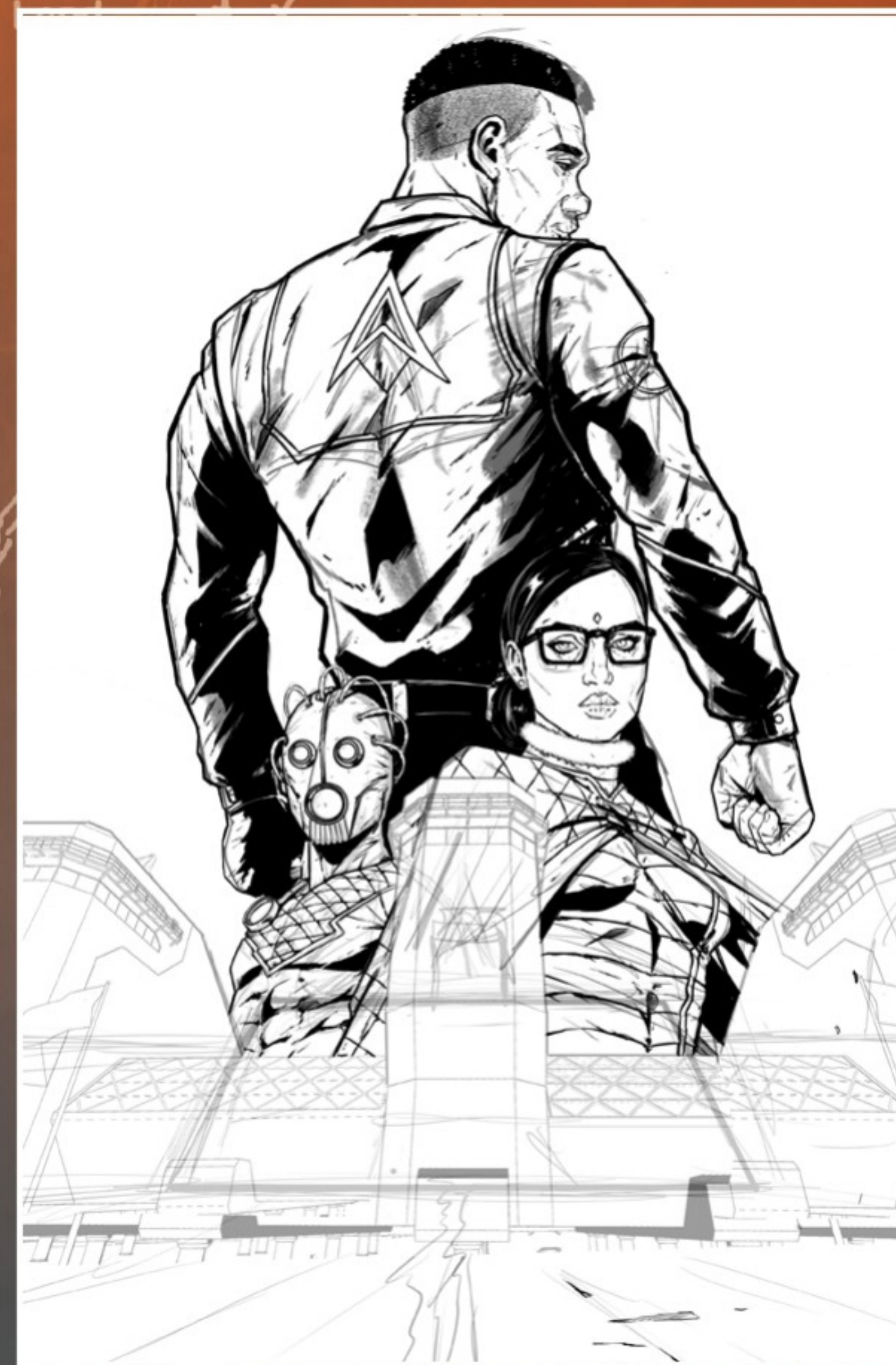
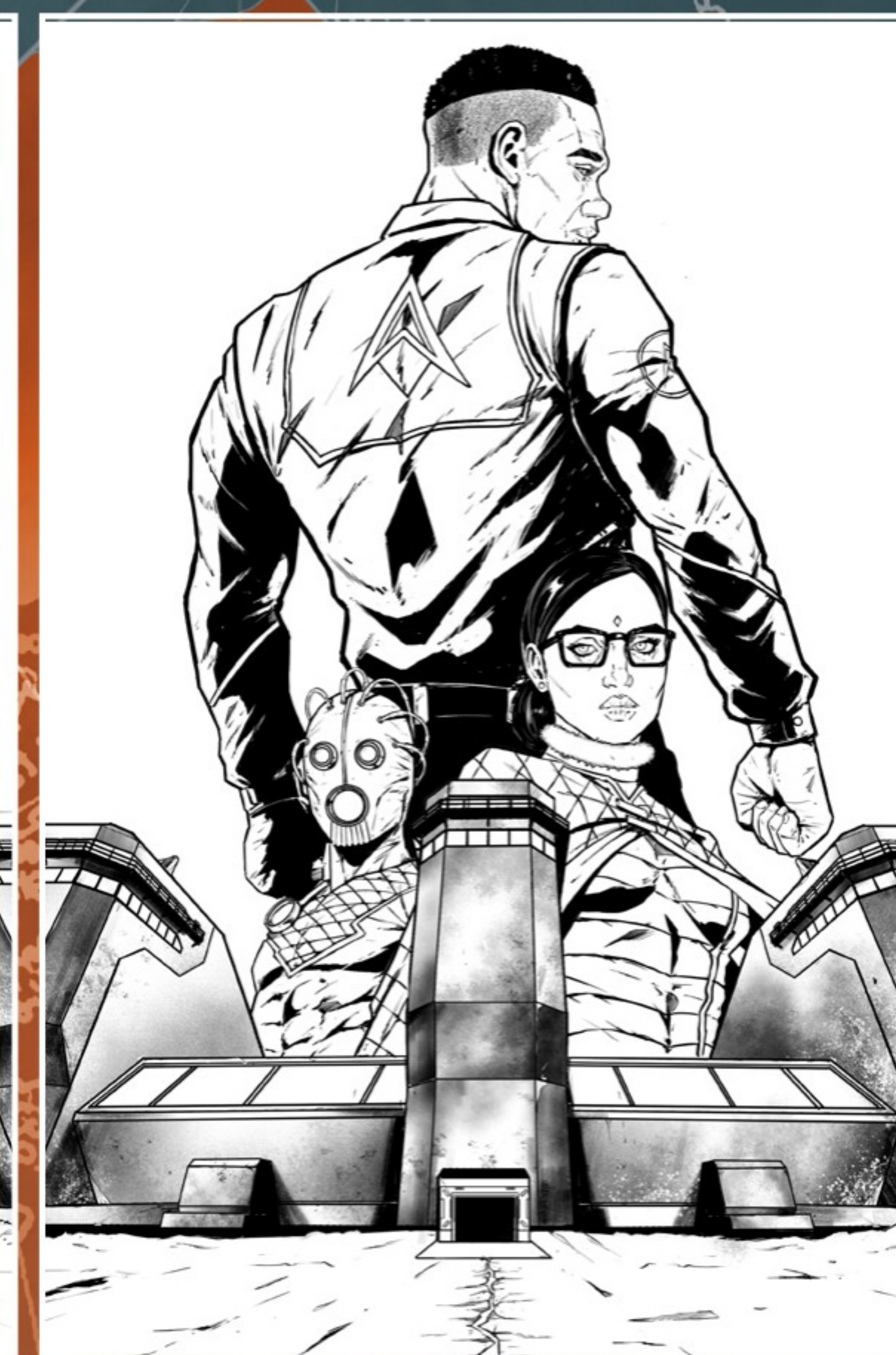
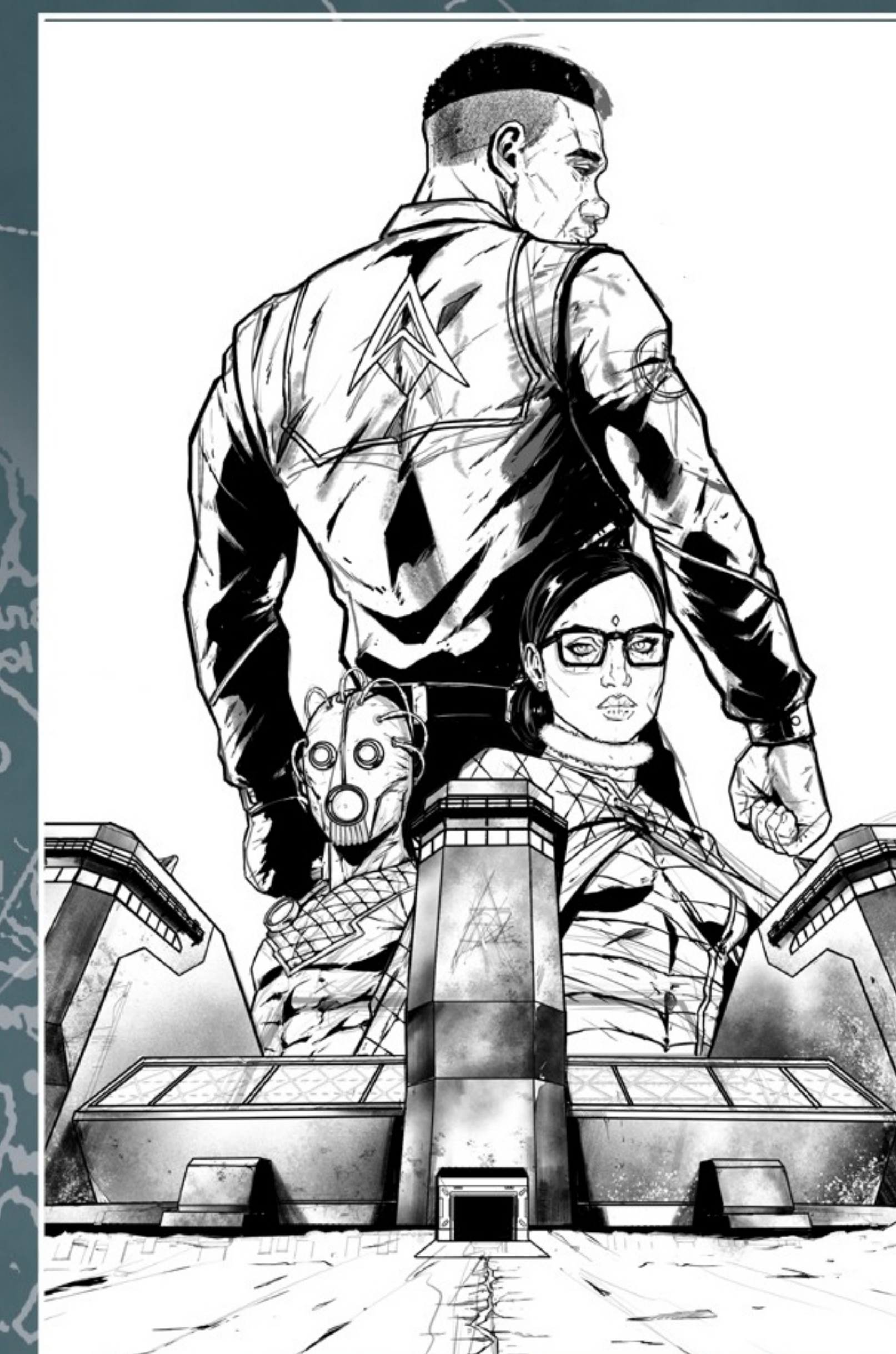
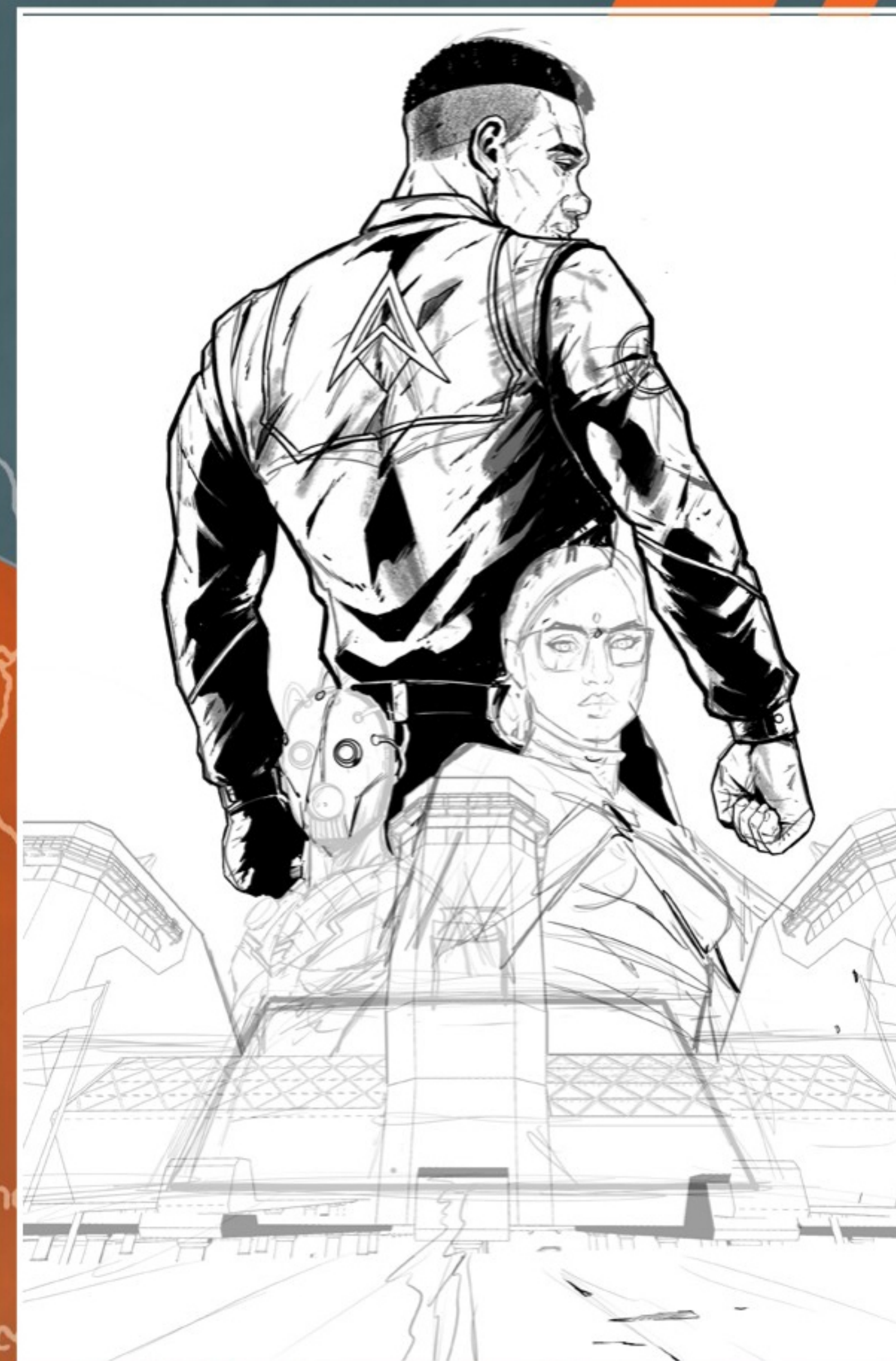
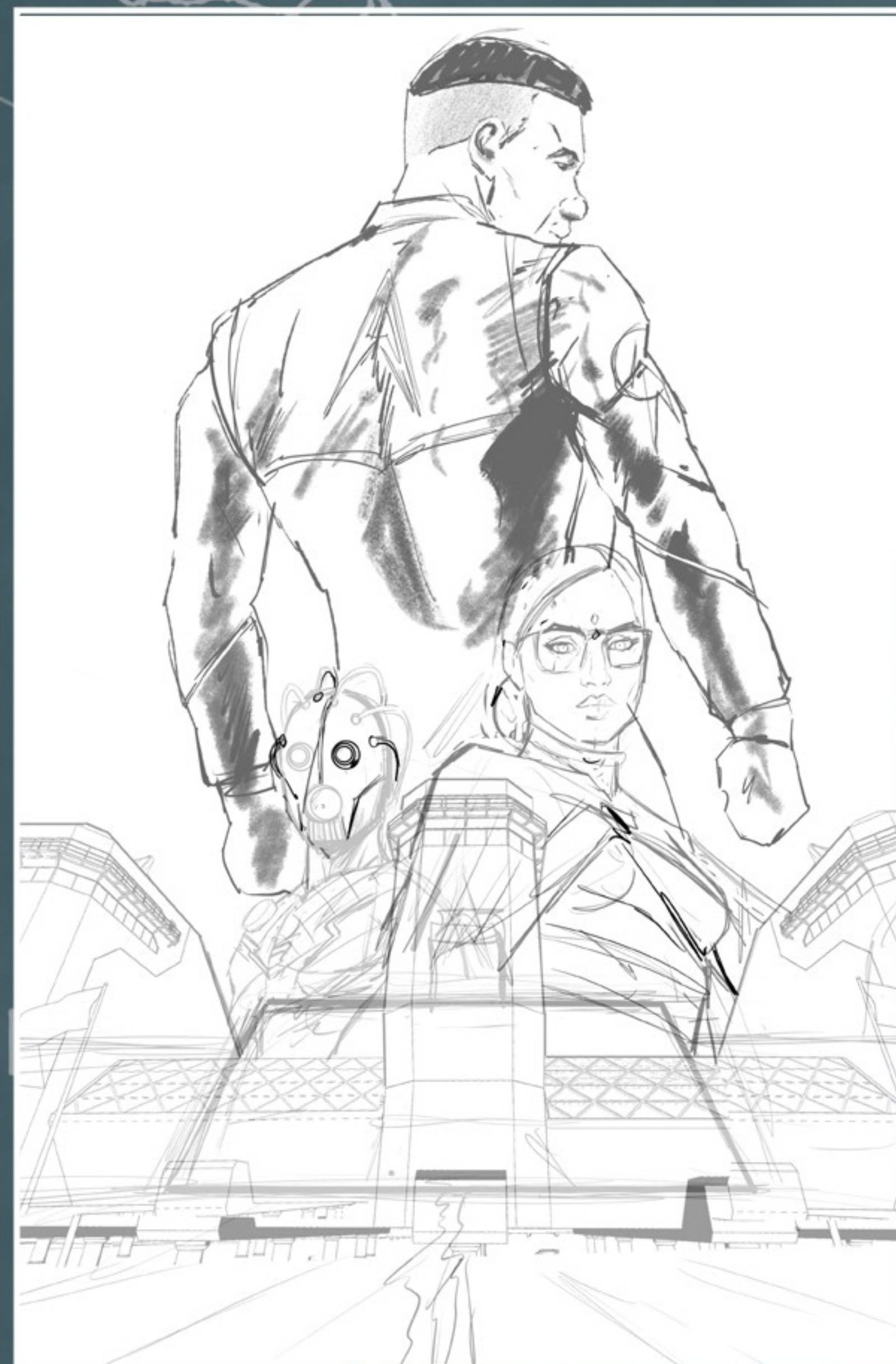
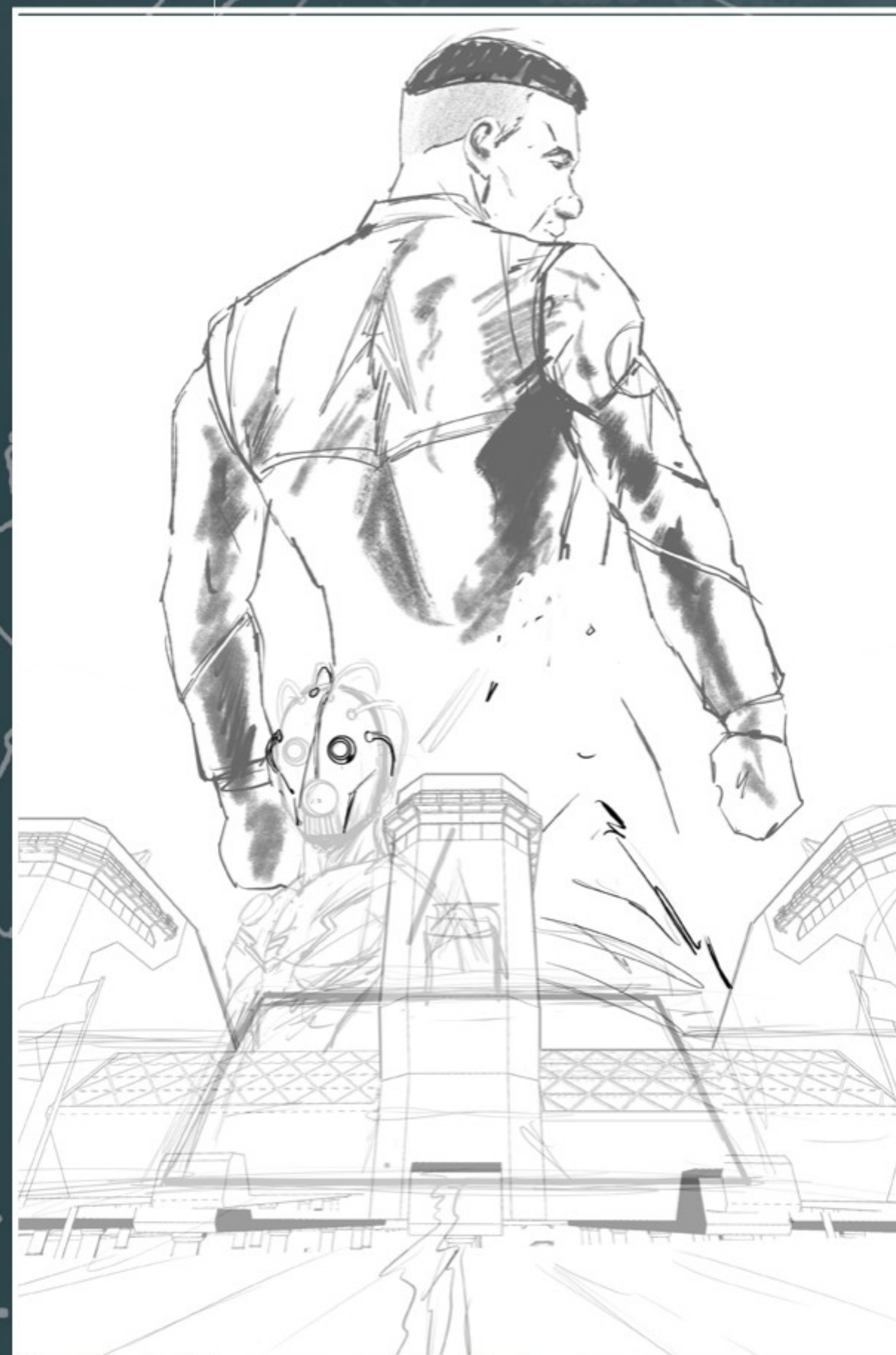
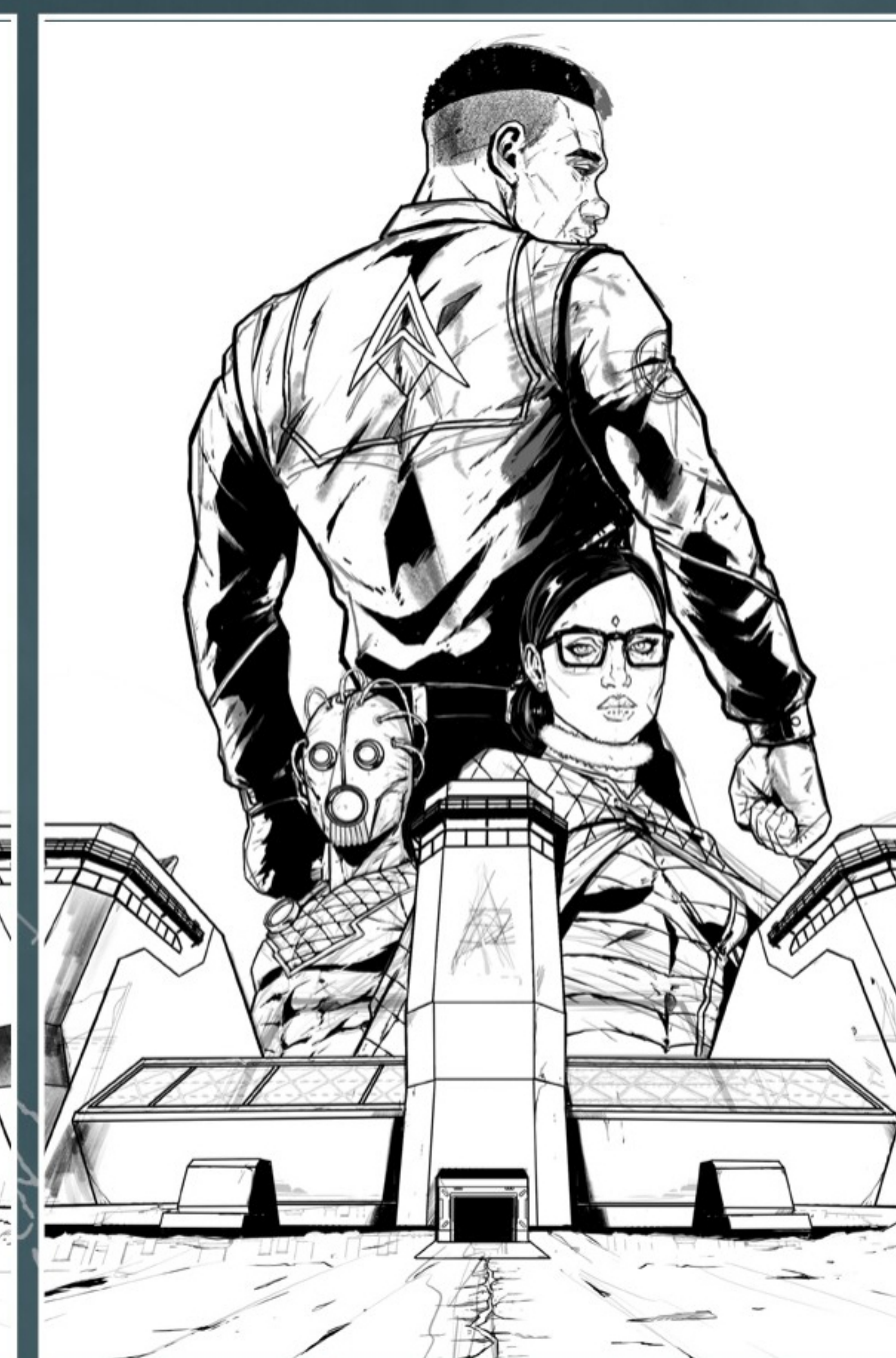
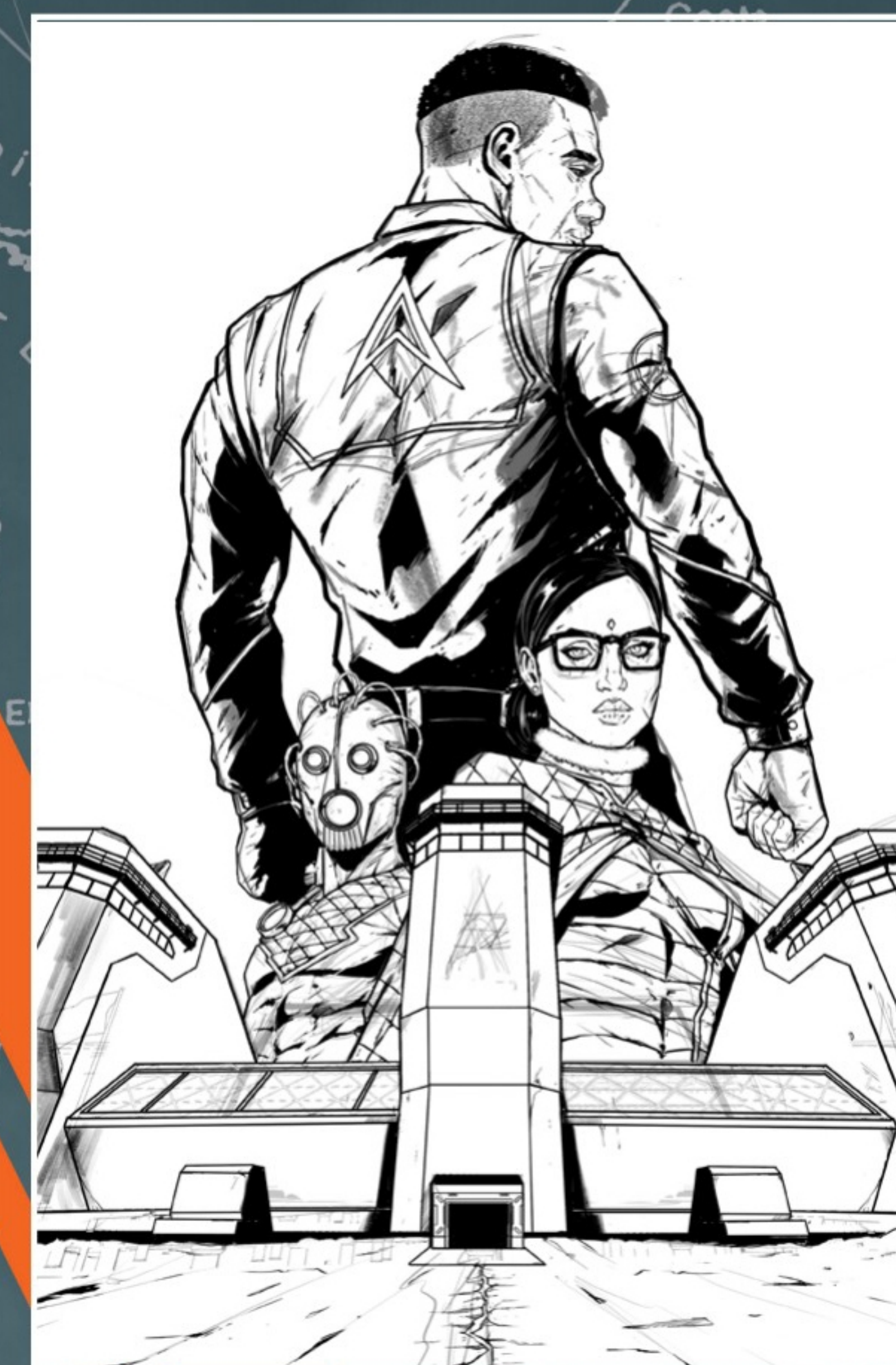
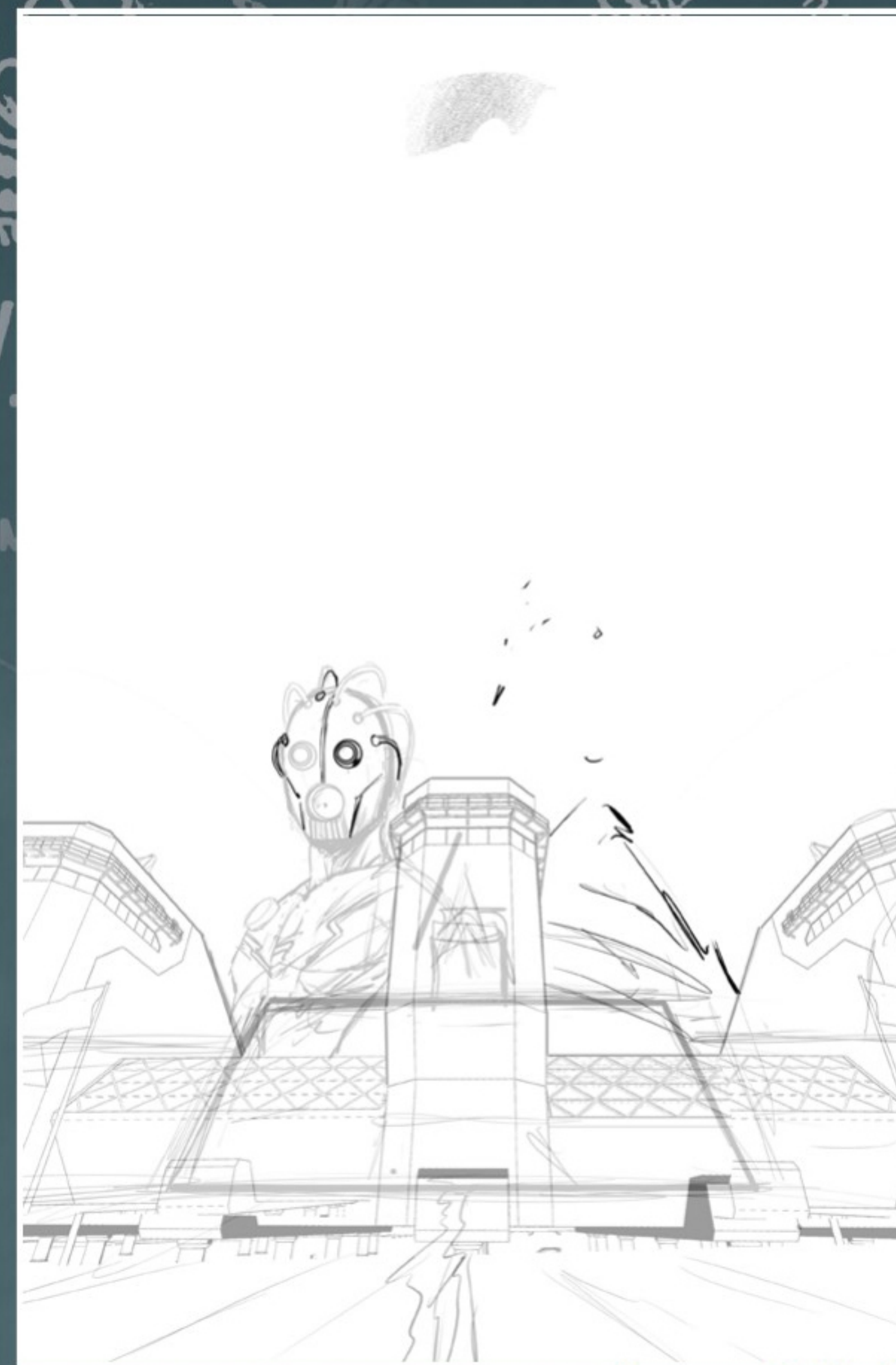
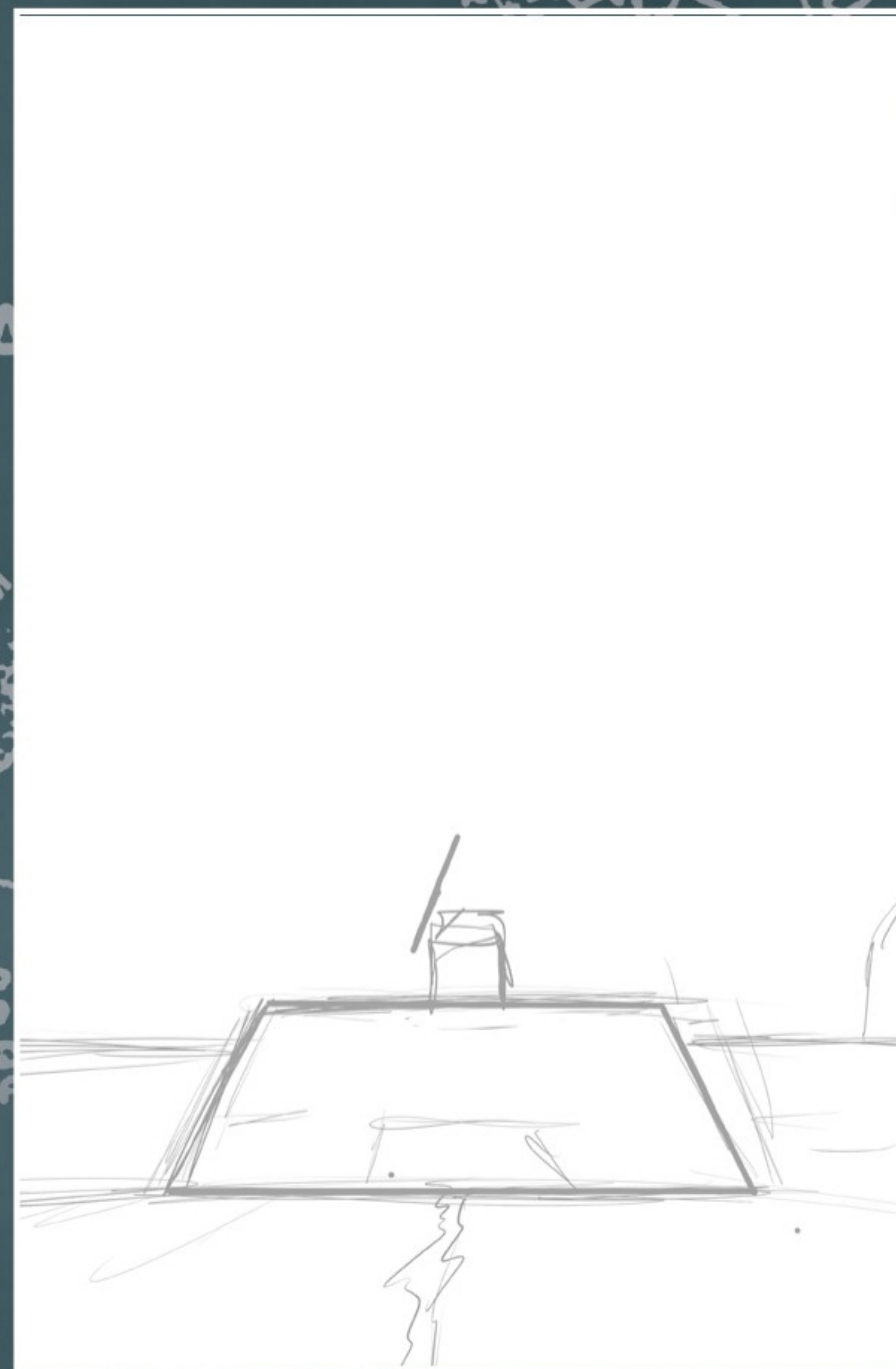


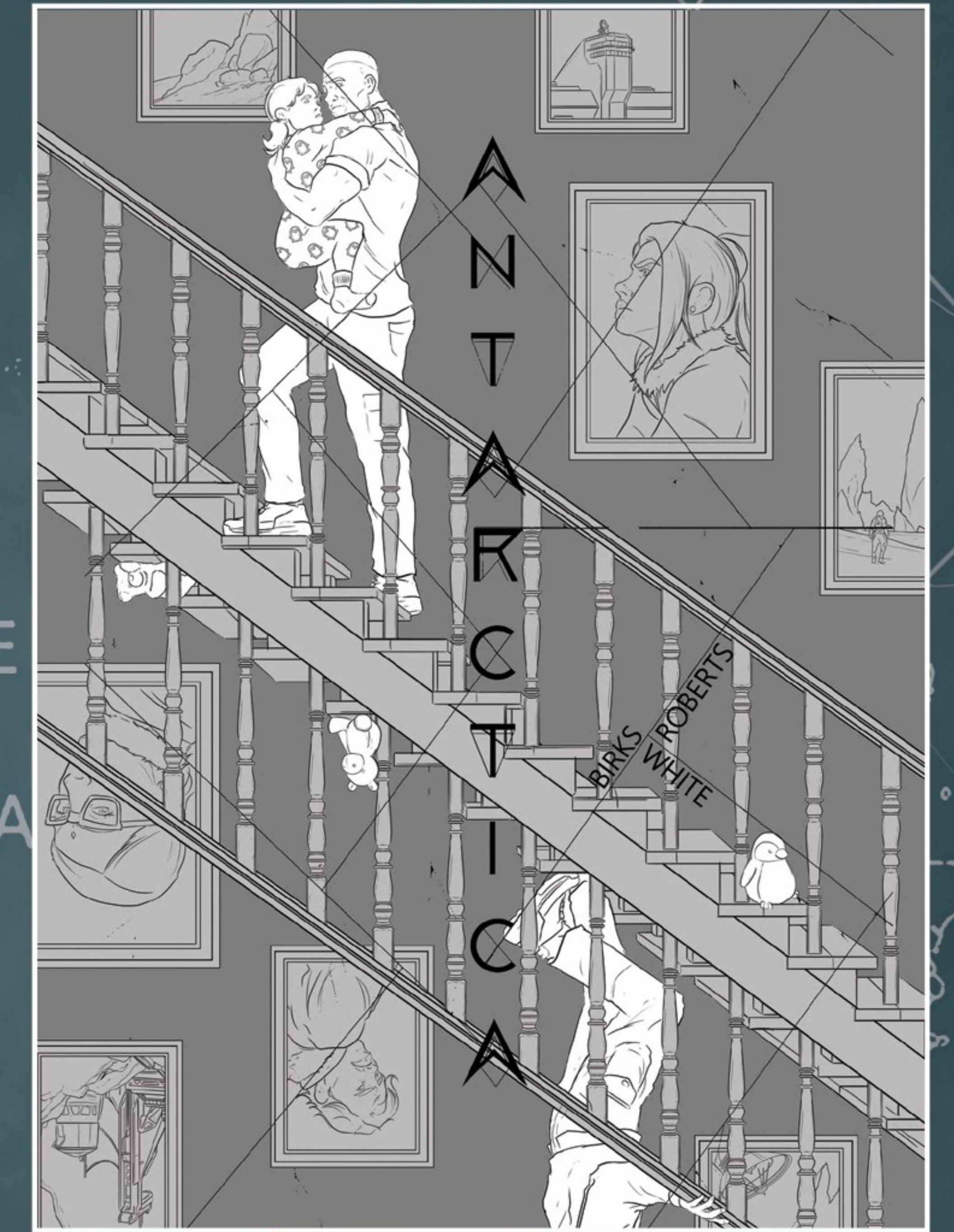
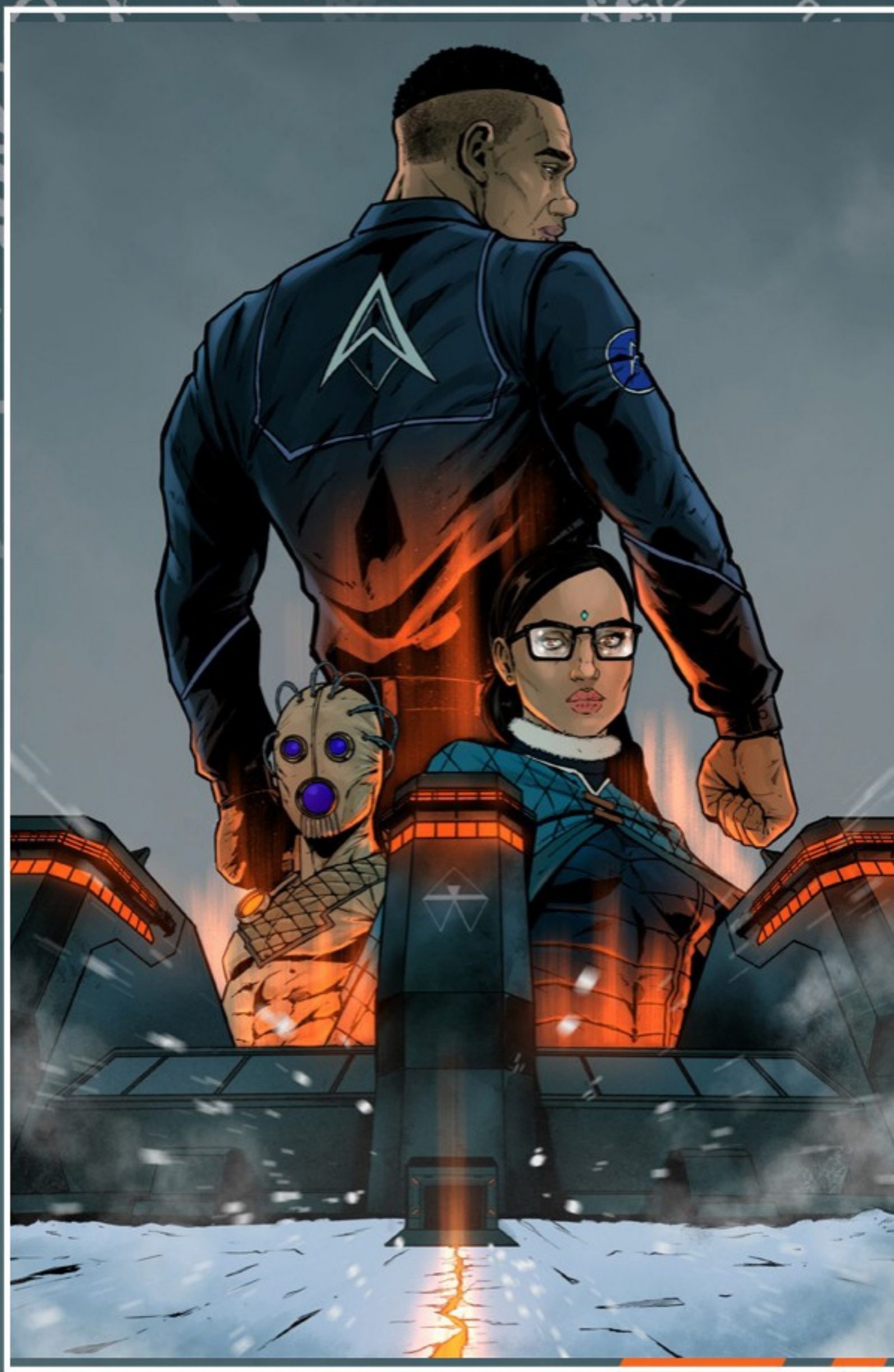
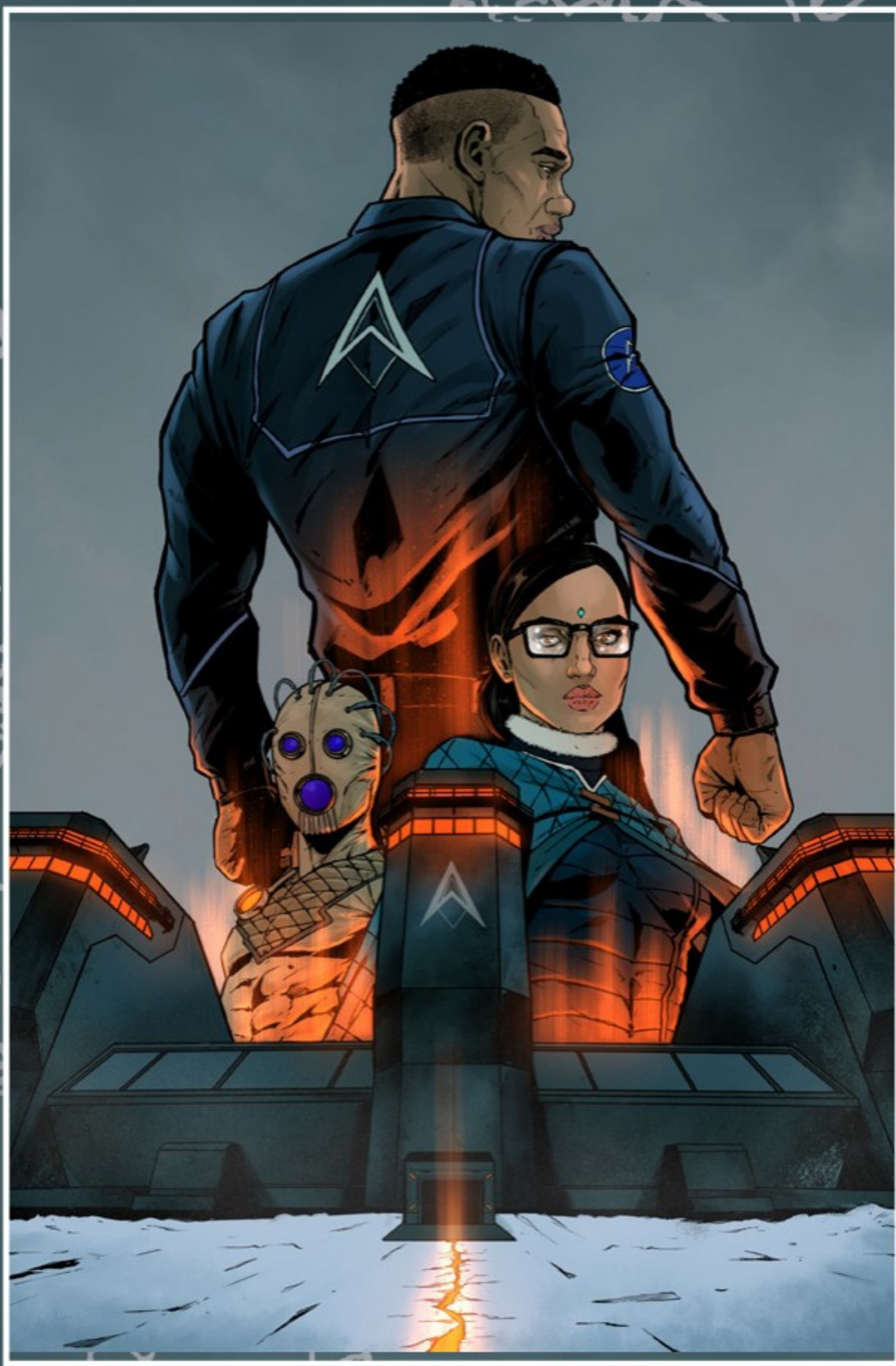
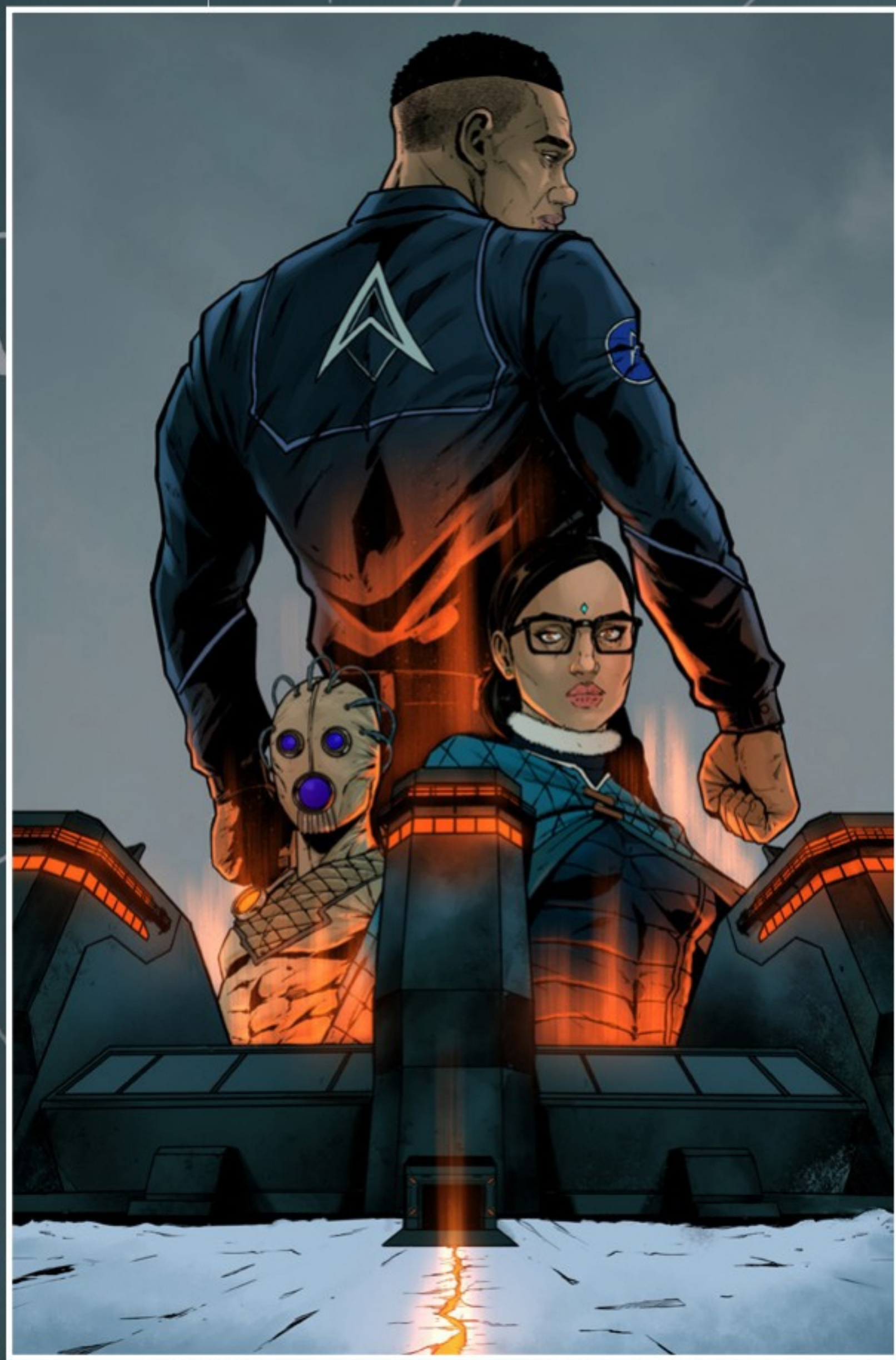


ANTARCTICA

Process Gallery

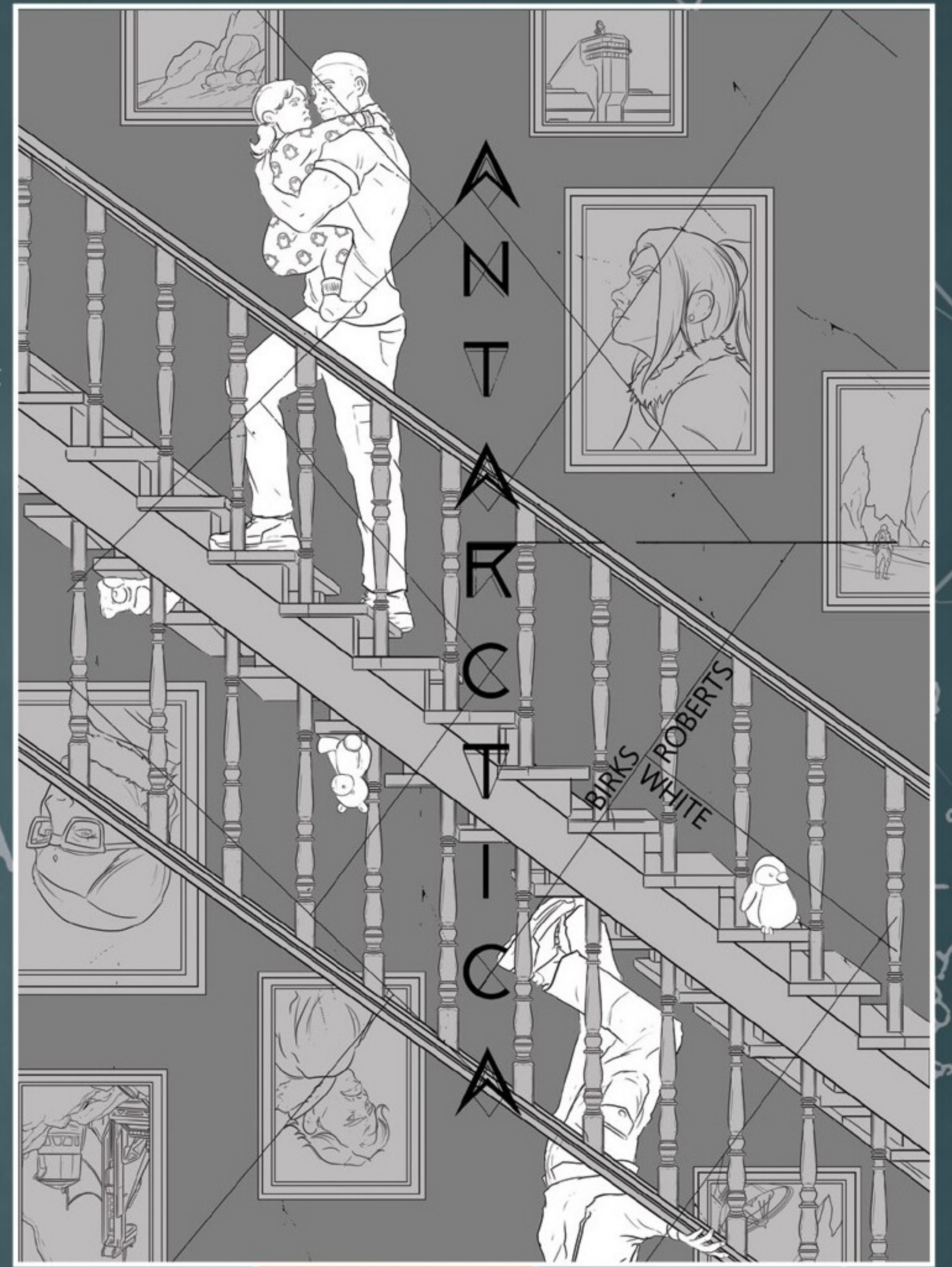
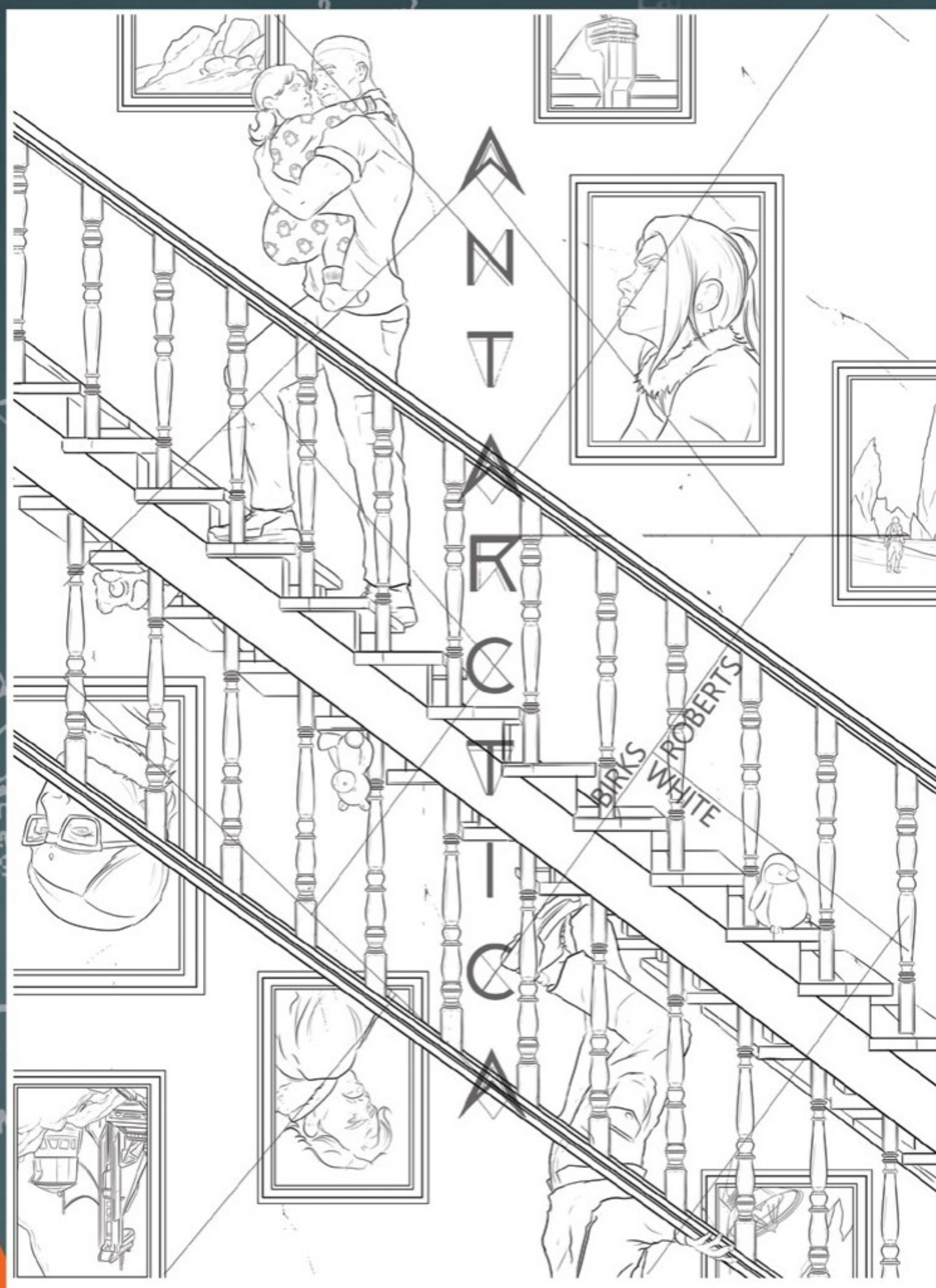
On the following pages...
Take an inside look at the process of bringing
the story to life with thumbnails and inks by
Willi Roberts and Lyndon White.





Antarctica #6 Cover B process: lines, tones, and colors

Art by **Lyndon White**



Antarctica #6 Cover B process: lines, tones, and colors

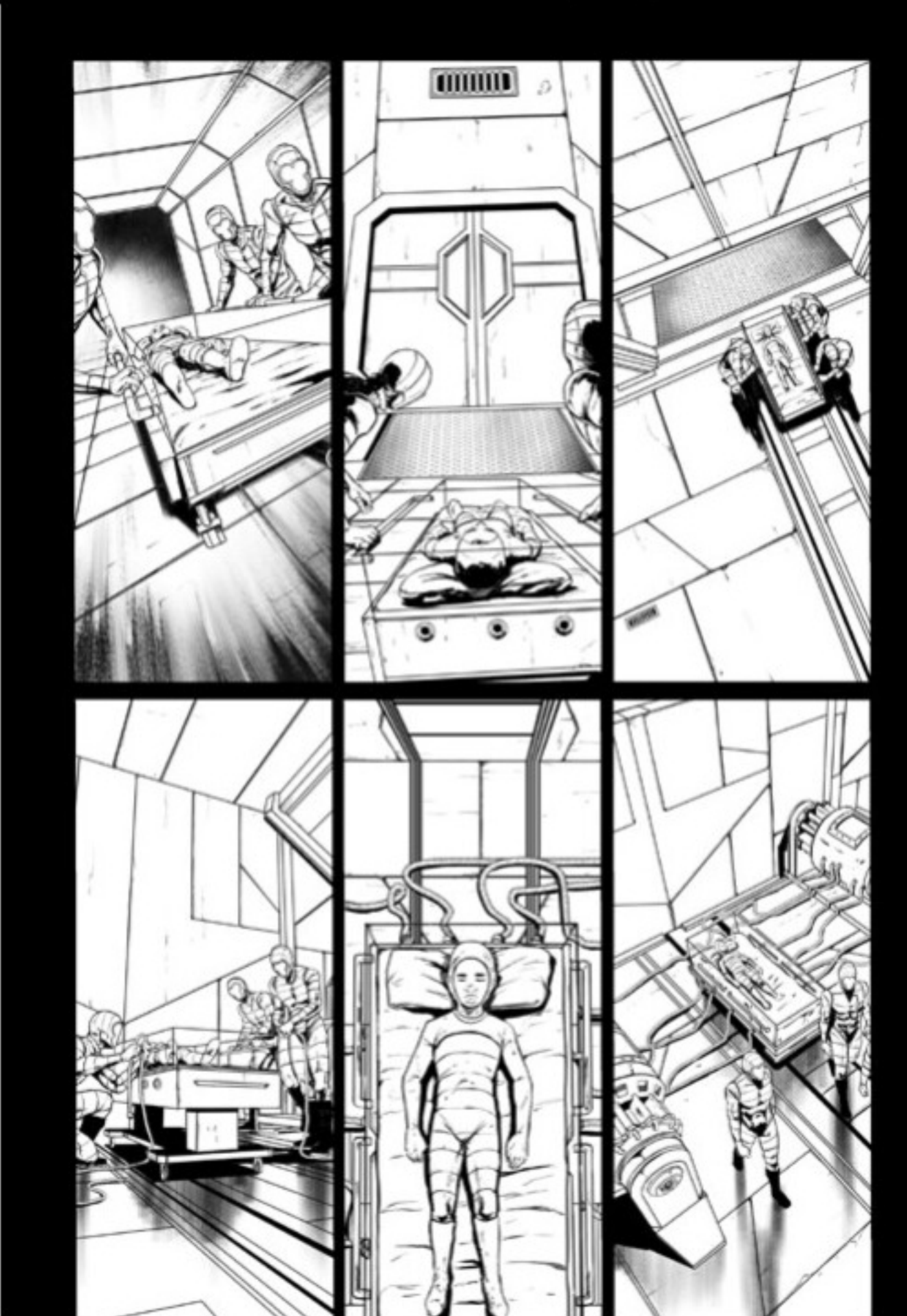
Art by **Lyndon White**

Select thumbnails
and inks from

Antarctica #6

Line art by
Willi Roberts





GALLERY

CHARACTER DESIGNS

DR GOHEL

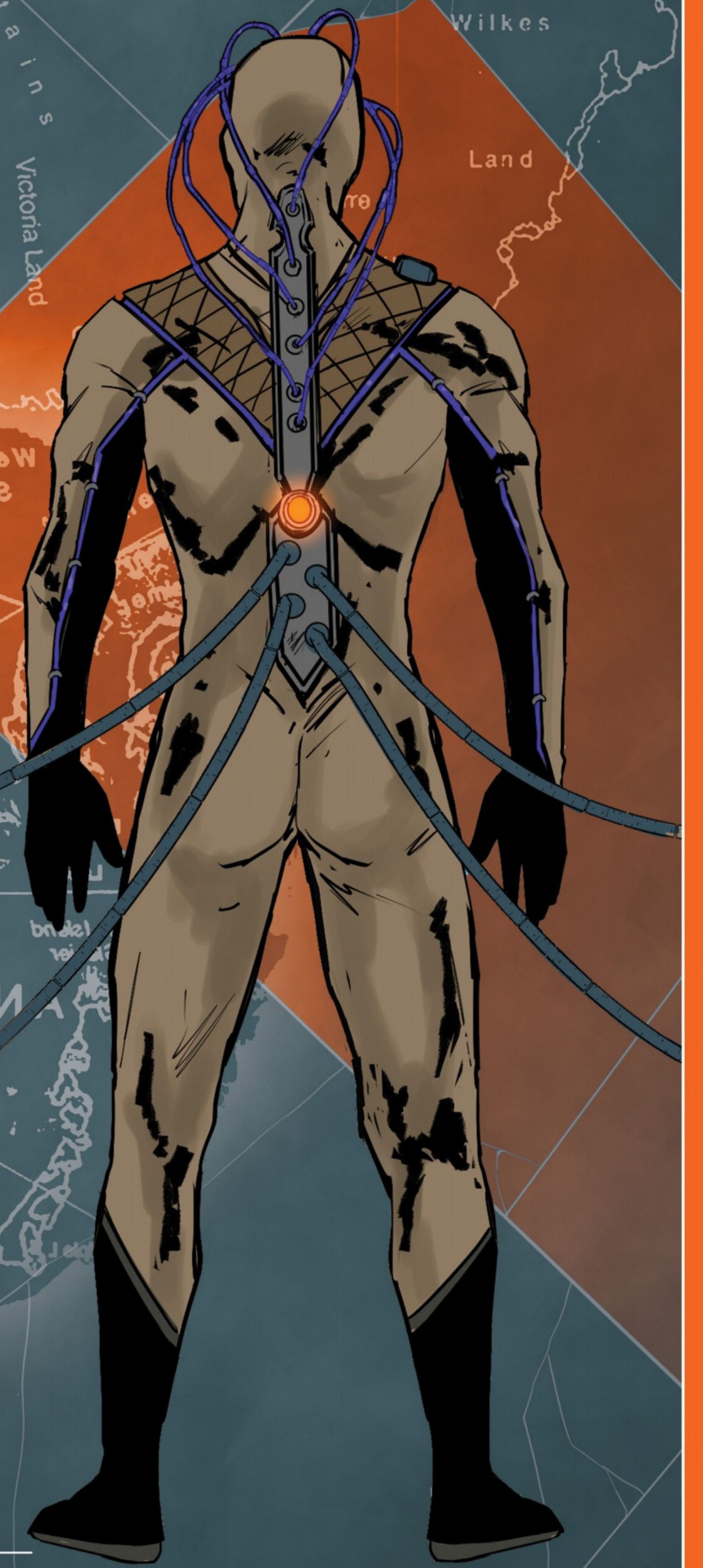
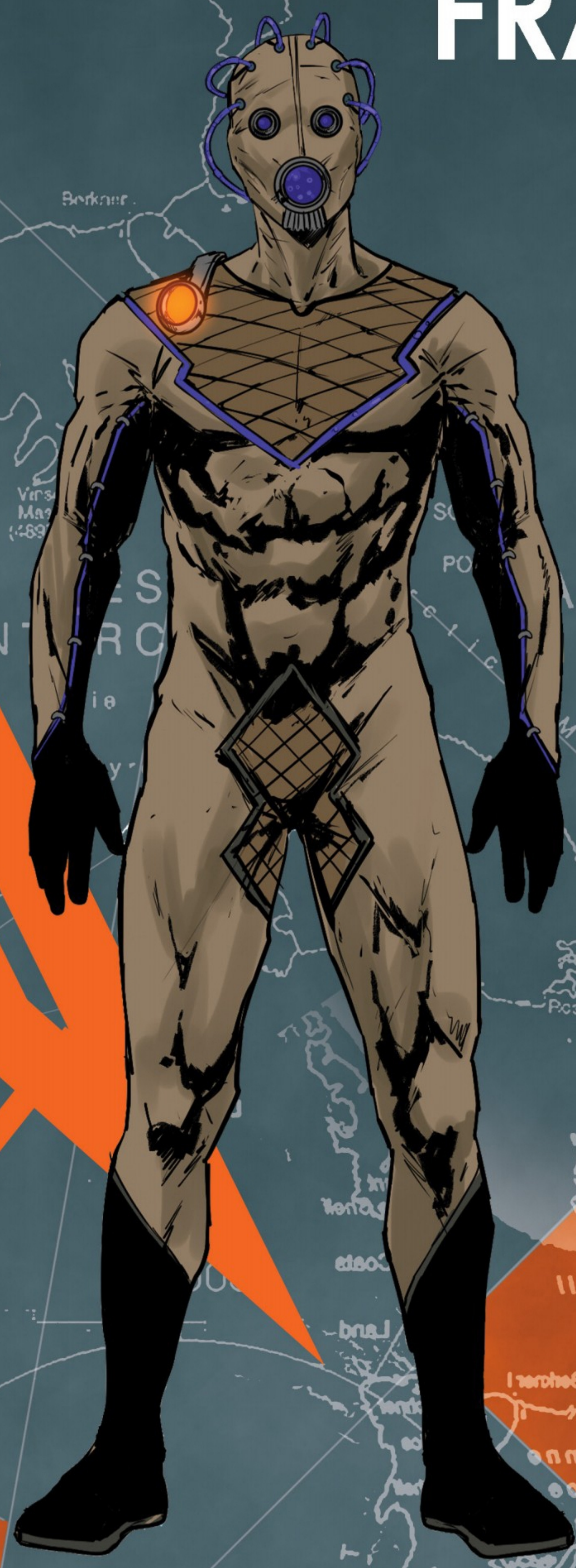
FRACTURE SUIT

GALLERY

CONCEPT DESIGNS



WILLIAMS



SIMON BIRKS

...is an award-winning writer of comics, novels, and films based in Linlithgow, Scotland. In 2015, he co-founded Blue Fox Comics with Marielle Bouleau and together they have successfully funded over 50 comic book Kickstarter campaigns. Also, Michael Palin once called a film he co-wrote 'very silly,' and that's good enough for him.



WILLI ROBERTS

...is a comic book artist based in Mar del Plata, Argentina, who started working in comics as a penciler, inker, colourist and graphic designer in 2010, drawing for publishers in the USA, Australia, Italy, and the UK. His titles include *The Dark*, *Clodagh*, *The Blood Below*, and indie-game tie-in comic *Remothered*.



LYNDON WHITE

...is an illustrator, writer, and comic book artist. His works have been published by Image, Top Cow, and Blue Fox Comics. His acclaimed graphic novels *Sparks* and *the Fallen Star* and *Candles* are fantasy favourites.

Over his career, Lyndon has successfully worked as part of over 40 Kickstarter campaigns, been supported by Arts Council England, and worked with clients such as Twitch and the Historic Royal Palaces.



Antarctica takes no prisoners...

"Timing is everything in a suspenseful plot such as this one, and the action is laid out deftly." — **Major Spoilers**

"Not only will you be as enthralled by this story as I am, but you will find yourself understanding the impact that having a 7-year-old Hannah in a simulation entails in the overall landscape of the story."

4.5/5 Stars — **Comic Crusaders**

"Birks deepens the mystery and crafts some fantastic action and thrills throughout the story."

— **The Super Powered Fancast**

Praise for Volume One...

"I believe when ANTARCTICA first came out, it was announced as a 5-issue story arc. Then, somewhere around the third or fourth issue, the news came in that it would continue as an ongoing series."

After finally finishing the first five issues collected in this volume, I can safely say that continuing it was the right decision."

There's an enormous world to be explored here, and it's clear we've only just scratched the surface."

— **Fanbase Press**

Hannah's life imploded the day her father failed to return from the secretive Smith-Petersen Research Station in Antarctica.

Following the events of volume one, we return to a happier time in Hannah's past. Dr. Hannah Curtis is seven years old and loves her father. With her sister away on Christmas, she goes to bed dreaming of the presents she will open in the morning, not realizing the events about to unfold. But Hannah's resourceful and has help on the inside, and when she discovers what's truly happening, she runs to the only place she's told not to, into the Fracture itself.

From award-winning writer **Simon Birks** (*Sinners, Gone, The Shadow Over Innsmouth, The Thing on the Doorstep*) with artist **Willi Roberts** (*The Dark, Clodagh, The Blood Below, Remothered*) featuring letters by **Lyndon White** (*Sparks and the Fallen Star, Candles*) comes a mind-bending saga of love and loss with the fate of the world hanging in the balance.



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